

Mourning period declared

AMMAN — The Royal Court on Tuesday declared 40 days of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away at the age of 85. Condolences will be received for three days beginning Wednesday. Men can offer their condolences at the Raghadan Palace while women can do so at the Basman Palace, the Royal Court said. A register of condolences will be opened at the Royal Court after the three-day period and will remain open until the end of the 40-day mourning. The government will observe a seven-day mourning. The government also announced that Wednesday will be a public day of mourning and all government institutions, schools and universities will remain closed on the day.

Jordan Times

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Funeral arrangements announced

AMMAN — The body of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf will be laid to rest Wednesday noon at the Royal Cemetery after funeral prayers at the Royal Guards Mosque, the Royal Court announced. The Royal Court said mourners will include the Royal Court members, the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the speakers and members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials, heads of diplomatic missions and senior army officers. King Hussein, the Princes and the sharifs will accept condolences from officials after the funeral, which will be transmitted live by Jordan Television starting at 10 a.m.

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Jordan goes into mourning over passing of Queen Mother

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan went into mourning yesterday over the death of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away at a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland at the age of 85.

His Majesty King Hussein late last evening flew the plane carrying the body of the late Queen to an emotional reception attended by members of the Royal Family and senior government and army officials among other dignitaries.

King Hussein, who was on a private visit to Britain where he underwent ear surgery, flew to Lausanne along with Her Majesty Queen Noor to bring the body home. Her Royal Highness Princess Basma had flown to Lausanne on Monday when the Queen Mother's condition deteriorated.

An honour guard carried the Queen's casket, which was draped with the Jordanian flag, with an army band playing the funeral salute and flags flew at half mast.

King Hussein escorted the motorcade, which accompanied the ambulance that carried the body of the late Queen from the airport to Zahran Palace. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was in the ambulance that carried the body of the late Queen.

Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal and Prince Ali and other princes and princesses and members of the Royal Family were at the airport to receive the body of the Queen.

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Her Majesty Queen Zein

The Queen Mother

who dedicated her life to her family and country. We extend our heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Basma and the Royal Hashemite Family.

May God bless her soul

Mother.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials were also at the Amman Civil Airport in Marka to receive the body of the late Queen.

In a cable to Prince Hassan, King Hussein mourned the Queen Mother as "a Muslim, faithful Hashemite," who was happy with her sons and daughter and family.

"Her soul joined the soul of our father King Talal," said the King. "Her memory will live in our souls for ever," said King Hussein, expressing faith in God's will. "She went into the mercy of God and to His heaven."

In a reply cable to King

Hussein, Prince Hassan conveyed his condolences and those of the Jordanian people to the King over the passing of the Queen Mother.

King Hussein announced a 40-day mourning period at the Royal Court and Prime Minister Majali said the Kingdom will observe an official mourning period of seven days during which flags will be at half mast. The Kingdom will today observe a public day of mourning.

In a letter to the King, Dr. Majali said the Queen Mother died after a life full of dedication and generosity.

The speakers of Parliament, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other senior officials sent letters of condolences to the King, expressing their grief over the late Queen whom they described as a mother to all Jordanians.

King Hussein received cables of condolences from heads of state of Arab and Muslim countries. Cables were sent by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Sultan Hassanali Bolklah of Brunei, Pakistani President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.



His Majesty King Hussein kisses the hand of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, upon his return from the U.S. after successful surgery on Sept. 24, 1992 (file photo)

Queen Zein leaves her mark

QUEEN Zein Al Sharaf was born on Aug. 2, 1908. She was married to King Talal Ben Abdullah in 1934 and was the mother of three sons and one daughter: His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Prince Hassan and Princess Basma. Then-Crown Prince Talal and Princess Zein were involved in the early development of Jordan under the leadership of the late-King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

The Queen Mother played a key role in the political development of the Kingdom in the early 1950s, in the writing of the 1952 Constitution and in social development in the country.

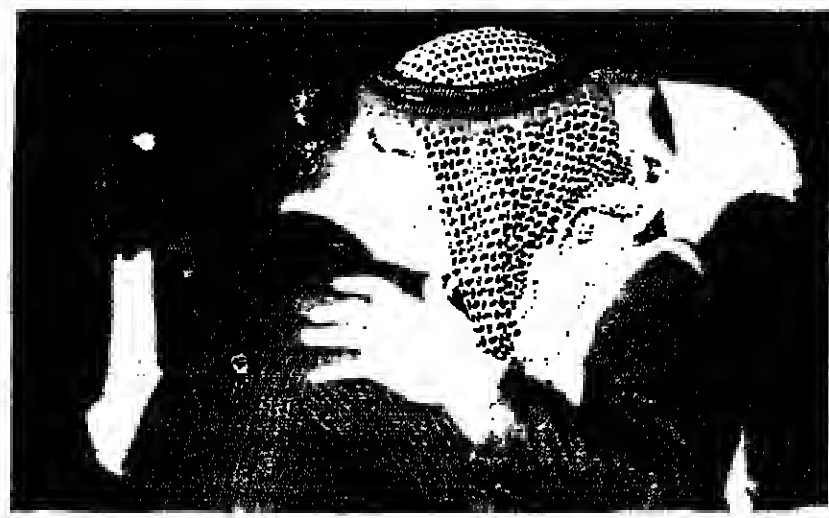
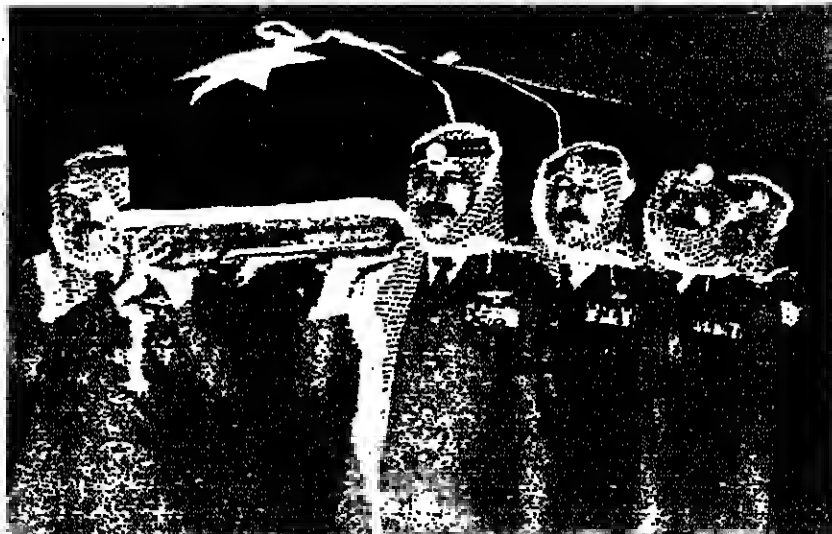
Queen Zein filled a constitutional vacuum after the assassination of King Abdullah in 1951 while the newly proclaimed King Talal was being treated in Switzerland and later in the period between August 1952 when King Hussein was proclaimed monarch and in 1953 when he assumed his constitutional duties at the age of 18, during which a regency council was entrusted to run the affairs of the state.

The Queen's influence in the writing of the 1952 Constitution ensured that it gave full rights to women. The late Queen has been the symbol of motherhood, selflessly dedicating her entire life to her children and country.

The Queen Mother led the way for the creation of the first women's union in Jordan in 1944 and was its president.

She was also instrumental in establishing the women's branch of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in 1948 and dedicated time and effort to the Um Al Hussein Orphanage in Amman.

Queen Zein contributed much to social and humanitarian services in the Kingdom and gave particular attention to the nation's charitable organizations and voluntary institutions.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma arrive home on Tuesday with the body of Her Majesty

Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away in a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland, and are received by His Royal Highness

Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other members of the Royal Family (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Gazans know more of misery than history

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — To most people, Gaza's waterfront is a squalid tableau of refugee camps, open sewers and veiled woman riding donkey carts. But Said Abu Haseera pictures beer-guzzling, sun-tan oiled tourists cramming beaches or strolling by Samson's tomb.

He and a small band of cohorts figure huc skies, blue sea, and the footprints of history are the makings of a tourism bonanza once Palestinian self-rule cures Gaza's more obvious ills.

Other Gazans wonder what could lure visitors to a place once dubbed 'Hell's Riviera,' with not a tourist draw to its name.

"I'd like to build a hotel, but I can't decide where because I really don't know where the historic ruins are," said businessman Nawaf Abdallah.

About the only well-preserved historic site in Gaza is a World War I-era foreign cemetery. Archaeologists cannot even agree on whether Biblical body builder Samson was buried here after bringing a temple down on his head. And the prevalent local celebration is a memorial service for someone slain in

clashes with Israel.

Gaza, population almost one million, has never had a tourist industry, unless you count armies stopping on their way to attack Egypt or the Holy Land.

Samson met his death here after his fatal attraction to Delilah, a conniving Philistine seductress who robbed him of his strength.

Napoleon is reputed to have spent three nights in Gaza City during his unsuccessful campaign to win the Middle East from the British.

About 3,500 British and other allies soldiers were killed in Gaza in the two world wars. A rutted road lined with car repair shops leads to the Gaza war cemetery, the only well-tended public space on the strip.

Every blade of grass is cut, and every tombstone surrounded by flowers. Ibrahim Jeradeh, the gardener who has maintained the graveyard for 35 years, was honoured last month by Queen Elizabeth.

Gaza has almost always been occupied. Part of the Ottoman empire for several centuries before World War I, it was under British mandate until 1948, when Egypt took over. Israel's occupation started after 1967 Middle East war.

Tourism will be a responsibility of the future Palestinian

autonomy government in Gaza and the West Bank; town of Jericho, expected to take control next month. Palestinians have formed a tourism committee in Jerusalem, but it is not a high priority.

Committee members say basic problems must be solved first — like getting hundreds of thousands of residents out of cramped refugee hovels, repaving roads, and building a sewage system.

Archaeological digs could run into problems with a cash-starved population that knows more about misery than history.

"We're afraid that once we've convinced the people of the importance of these places, they will plunder them," said Mohammed Sadeq, a Palestinian archaeologist.

Archaeologists say there are at least 67 historic sites in Gaza, including 15 ancient buildings, a Greek Orthodox church dating to 425, an 8th century mosque, two Turkish baths and dozens of Ottoman houses.

All are in an advanced state of decay. Political graffiti obscures the crumbling walls of the church and mosques. The tiny gold bazaar stinks. A T-shirt vendor's wares cover the small domed building known

as Samson's tomb.

Other obstacles to tourism include no airport, no tourist buses, no car rental agencies, no guide books, no brochures, no postcards, no movie theatres and not much shopping.

Muslim fundamentalists banned women from swimming in bathing suits in 1978, and closed the last restaurant serving liquor 10 years later.

The only map used in the strip is issued by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency to help drivers weave through an explosive mix of 19 Jewish settlements and eight Palestinian refugee camps.

At their most optimistic, economists think it will be at least five years before Gaza attracts even the most intrepid tourists.

But aspiring tourism magistrates are unfazed.

With the approval of Islamic activists, Mr. Abu Haseera obtained a municipal liquor license for non-Muslim tipplers, found belly-dancers to perform at his restaurant, and contracted two Chinese couples to serve in Gaza's first ethnic restaurant.

"With peace everything is possible," he said. "Tourists, beer, belly-dancers and bikinis."

Palestinian collaborators prepare to move to Israel

FAHMA, occupied West Bank (R) — Palestinian collaborators living in this poverty-stricken village say dozens of them received Israeli identity cards this month and are preparing to move to Israel when Palestinian self-rule starts.

They confirmed Israeli press reports that Israel was planning to protect Palestinians who spied for its security forces by allowing them to move to Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) refused to guarantee their safety under self-rule.

Israel built up huge spy networks in the occupied territories to break the Palestinian uprising. Hundreds of them live in isolated villages under Israeli protection, but many more suspected collaborators still live among the Arab population.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem says between 700-900 Palestinians accused of collaborating have been killed by their own people since the Palestinian uprising against Israel erupted in 1987.

Suspicious of outsiders and armed to the teeth, most of the collaborators of Fahma said they had happily taken up an offer by Israel's intelligence agencies of a new life in Israel.

"I'm an Israeli, not a Palestinian since Israel has welcomed me and my family," said Sam Sharqawi, 27. "We will all be loyal soldiers for Israel. My people oppressed me. I was not born a spy, they made me into one."

Mr. Sharqawi, originally from the town of Jenin, said he was recruited to work for Israel while serving an eight-year jail sentence for activities as a supporter of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

He said six of his family had been forced to leave their homes when it became known he was a collaborator. Israel had also agreed to allow them and their families to move, he said.

Residents said the whole village of about 250 people was

expected to decamp to live in Israel. Twenty-nine collaborators and their families had so far got papers to move to Israel and the remaining 53 families were expected to get them soon.

Nafie Jabr, 30, said he would move as soon as a Palestinian self-rule authority arrived in Gaza and Jericho. Israeli and PLO negotiators are trying to wrap up an agreement in Cairo now and self-rule could start within a few weeks.

"I don't think the authority can control the behaviour of the Palestinian street, which has never known any discipline. We cannot just sit quiet when they want to kill us," he said.

He said Israeli authorities had asked them where they would like to live and work inside the Jewish state. Small communities of Palestinian collaborators already live near Tel Aviv.

The settlement they now live in is a run-down army camp. Just opposite the entrance, an Israeli army post monitors the main road.

Most houses are one or two-room concrete bungalows with sparse furnishings. There is no telephone, and electricity is often cut off. A school on site makes sure children do not have to leave the camp, cutting contact with the surrounding Palestinian population to a minimum.

Collaborators rarely leave home without at least a pistol and some of them have semi-automatic rifles.

Israel has several times pressed the PLO to pardon collaborators but the PLO has so far refused. Israeli reports on Monday said collaborators in a village in Gaza had also been given Israeli identity cards and could move inside Israel.

The two main Palestinian factions, Fatah and Hamas, last week announced a month's moratorium on the killing of collaborators. But such calls are short-lived and dozens of suspected collaborators are tortured and killed every year.

Kuwaitis urged to study Saudi security links

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti member of parliament (MP) said on Monday the emirate should consider forging common foreign, defence and oil policies with neighbour Saudi Arabia.

"Let's talk about unity in specific fields, in oil policy, in defence, one army, or at least one army leadership — and in foreign policy," Islamist MP Mubarak Al-Duwaili said in an interview with Reuters.

"In this case we should gain because we should be part of a big country," the opposition politician said. "Our friends are the same as the Saudis' friends. Their friends are our friends."

Kuwaitis nervous about former occupier Iraq sometimes privately discuss strengthening links with large neighbour Saudi Arabia, their chief ally during Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation, as a possible security option. Few mention the possibility publicly.

Mr. Duwaili said he was not suggesting political union, an idea that would be as contentious in the Gulf oil-exporting emirate of 1.5 million people as in any other country.

But he said increased coordination and cooperation in the three policy fields in a confederal system would help Kuwait survive in a region that was likely to continue to be

unstable.

"Confederation does not mean unity," he said.

"Problems (in this situation) will keep going. In this situation it is difficult for small states to exist, and we must do something for our future."

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a 12-year-old economic and military alliance of six thinly-populated but economically important states.

But the GCC, which also includes the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, has had limited success in resolving regional disputes or border rows between its members or in building a common defence force.

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sulaiman Al-Shaheen said in a speech earlier this month a confederation or a "merger" might be a viable option for any two GCC states wanting to boost security.

Mr. Duwaili, a member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement, Kuwait's version of the Muslim "Brotherhood," chairs a parliamentary committee that works for the return of hundreds of Kuwaitis believed by Kuwait, despite Iraqi denials, to still be held by Baghdad.

Detained Iranian writer said to have 'confessed'

NICOSIA (AP) — Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani, a dissident Iranian writer arrested last month, was being held on charges ranging from sodomy to links with "anti-revolutionary elements" abroad, an Iranian intelligence ministry official has said.

Musavi Nejad, director general for national security at Iran's intelligence ministry, told reporters in Tehran Sunday that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani had been arrested along with an "accomplice," whom he identified as Niaz Kermani.

He said: "Both of them have confessed to their acts."

Mr. Nejad, whose comments were carried Monday by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), said Mr. Saidi-Sirjani and Mr. Niaz had confessed to drug-related charges and admitted involvement with the Savak, the secret police of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was ousted by the 1979 Islamic revolution.

He said the two men had received "substantial amounts of foreign funds."

Shortly after his disappearance, an Iranian newspaper reported that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani had been arrested on drug-related charges and for alcohol consumption.

His March 14 arrest coincided with a mounting campaign against opponents, at a time when the regime is getting increasingly nervous with a string of bomb attacks and assassination attempts against the ruling clerics.

Last Friday, a lone gunman shot and wounded Ahaie Khorassani, a clergyman in the eastern city of Mashhad.

Mr. Nejad blamed the Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, the largest Iranian opposition group, for the attack.

Last month, the New York-based human rights organisation, Human Rights Watch, appealed to Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad 'Beharati' to investigate Mr. Saidi-Sirjani's case.

It said in a letter to Mr. Beharati that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani was picked up from his Tehran home by the anti-spies squad after his wife was shown a blank arrest warrant and given no information about the reason for her husband's arrest.

Human Rights Watch said it understood that Mr. Kermani, a little-known poet and an associate of Mr. Saidi-Sirjani who had met the writer on the day of his disappearance, may also have been detained.

It said Mr. Kermani's whereabouts and the motive for his arrest were likewise unknown.

Syrian businessman's ventures questioned

PORTLAND (AP) — A former convenience store owner reportedly has won a contract to build a \$250 million fertiliser plant in Syria with the backing of some major U.S. companies, despite failing at smaller ventures in Oregon.

Elie Mouakad had sought permission from Syria to build a Disney-style theme park but found the Damascus government was more interested in an industrial plant, the Business Journal weekly said.

Mr. Mouakad hopes the fertiliser plant will bring up to \$75 million in contracts to Oregon companies, improve U.S.-Syrian relations and pave the way for his proposed Damascus Magic World Park.

But some who have worked with him are sceptical and say the plan may be just another

empty promise to investors.

The Business Journal said Mr. Mouakad has traded heavily on his political connections to former Governor Vic Atiyeh, a cousin to Dr. Mouakad's ex-wife, and Denny Smith, a former congressman now seeking the Republican nomination for governor.

Mr. Smith is vice chairman of Makad International Ltd., known as Makad group, the holding company that is a play on the spelling of Mr. Mouakad's name. Mr. Mouakad is chairman.

"He's a very good salesman," Mr. Smith said. But he added: "I haven't seen any money made yet."

The weekly said extensive interviews and public records show that during the last 15 years, Mr. Mouakad has

formed and dissolved several companies, gone through bankruptcy twice, lost his home to foreclosure, failed to pay numerous creditors and investors, and lost sexual harassment lawsuits.

Betty Hoel, 53, and her mother, Hazel Cunningham, invested \$75,000 in Mr. Mouakad's Tecorp International Trading Company in the late 1980s. It was the last they saw of their money.

Ms. Hoel also worked as an office manager for Mr. Mouakad but was never paid for a year's work, except for two \$500 expense cheques, she said.

"He was going to pay me \$1,500 a month," Ms. Hoel said. "I never saw it."

Mr. Mouakad formed his first Oregon company, Arab

American Corporation, with cash from the 1980 sale of a Portland convenience store he and his wife had bought with loans from Mr. Kahl's relatives.

The company was dissolved a couple of years later, and the Mr. Mouakads' home fell into foreclosure. They later divorced.

Makad officials disclosed the \$1.1 million purchase of an apartment complex in 1992. Sources familiar with the deal said Mr. Mouakad overpaid for the apartments, which fell into foreclosure last year, the Business Journal said.

Mr. Mouakad also has proposed shipping holstein bulls to China, mushrooms to Japan and a nail plant to Tonga. None of those deals ever materialised, the newspaper said.

CIA fears Islamic takeover of Egypt

The Sunday Times

AMERICAN intelligence officials believe the danger of Egypt falling to Islamic fundamentalists is increasing rapidly.

A senior State Department official said last week the country was "only one bullet away from anarchy and revolution" — a reference to the vulnerability of President Hosni Mubarak to assassination.

The latest American intelligence assessment was prepared by the CIA in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, when a Jewish settler killed 30 Arabs in a mosque on the Israeli-occupied West Bank in February. The study says the massacre and increasing tension in Israel have fuelled the fundamentalist fire in Egypt.

"There has been a huge increase in the number of subversives and recruits that have been rallying to the cause," said an administration official.

Earlier this month a bomb was thrown at a car carrying General Rauf Khayrat, the second-in-command of the state security services, who was killed. Khayrat was one of the officials leading the hunt for Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiya, the Islamic Group which claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Last week, it killed a senior officer in Assiut, the southern city at the centre of the revolt. The militants have killed 360

people, including 132 policemen, since they declared war on the government in March 1992. They have also killed eight tourists, sufficient to halve the tourist trade and worsen already serious economic problems.

Some officials fear that Egypt will fall in a line of dominoes triggered by Algeria, where the military government is trying by both force and negotiation to stave off an Islamic revolution. Analysts lead to agree that the Egyptian government has not responded adequately to its crisis. It has cracked down in huge sweeps through areas where militants are believed to live and many alleged terrorists have been killed. There have also been widespread allegations of the routine use of torture.

However, Mubarak's close advisers, who see their own power being weakened by the fundamentalists, have advised him to adopt an even tougher policy. He has dismissed the terrorists as troublemakers who have no support within the community.

Some Western diplomats argue that the terrorists are successfully exploiting deep social divisions and have highlighted the corruption of senior officials. They argue that Mubarak has done nothing to tackle the social ills that give the terrorists some credibility and that unless he does so, he will fail.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada wants to sell Kuwait warships

KUWAIT (AP) — Canada wants to sell naval vessels and light armoured vehicles to Kuwait, Ottawa's international trade minister said Monday. "We have an interest in providing naval vessels to the Kuwaiti navy," Roy MacLaren told reporters after meetings with Kuwait's emir, crown prince and other ministers. Mr. MacLaren arrived Sunday night on a brief visit to Kuwait.

He is seeking to improve commercial cooperation with Kuwait. He left for Saudi Arabia Monday night. Mr. MacLaren said the left for Saudi Arabia Monday night. Mr. MacLaren said the left for Saudi Arabia Monday night. Mr. MacLaren said the left for Saudi Arabia Monday night. Mr. MacLaren said the left for Saudi Arabia Monday night.

Lebanon unions postpone banned protest

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's General Labour Confederation (CGTL) backed down in a war of wills with the government and postponed indefinitely a banned demonstration on Tuesday, labour officials said. The CGTL said in a statement on Monday that the decision to postpone the march on Monday was made to avoid a "bloody" government headquarters was made to avoid a "bloody" suppression operation." As the CGTL met, top security officials were having talks with Interior Minister Bechari Merhej on measures to stop the demonstration. Beirut newspapers said Mr. Merhej contacted the CGTL and threatened to impose a curfew on Tuesday if it insisted on going ahead with the march. The postponement appeared to be a victory for a government getting tough on law-and-order. The CGTL called the protest after saying the government, backtracked on a pay pact last December. The government, which is trying to restore stability after 15 years of civil war, has refused to authorise street protests for the past 10 months.

Irish defence minister visits Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Irish Defence Minister David Andrews met in Tehran Monday with Iran's top leaders and called for closer cooperation between Ireland and the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said that a meeting with President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mr. Andrews proposed that a letter of understanding be signed between Iran and Ireland to promote ties. Mr. Andrews told Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, that Iran could dispatch students to Ireland to take advantage of its country's technological expertise, IRNA reported. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, in turn, said Iran was ready to exchange expertise in forestry, fishing, as well as jetty and ship building. In a meeting with Mr. Andrews, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said there were ample grounds for cooperation between the two countries, said IRNA.

Sudan publisher ousted from Assembly

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's parliament adopted a resolution Monday urging dismissal of Mahjoub Orwa, editor and publisher of a banned newspaper, as a member of the appointed parliament. The move followed state television's showing Saturday of an interrogation of Mr. Orwa by men of the Transitional National Council sent a recommendation for Mr. Orwa's dismissal to military ruler Omar Hassan Ali Bashir, who appointed the 300 members of the parliament, the official Sudan News Agency reported. Mr. Orwa, whose Al Sudani international was Sudan's only independent daily, is being questioned about "communicating with foreign agencies to disrupt stability and peace in Sudan." Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. Mr. Orwa, who appeared shaky and confused on television, admitted to possession of messages exchanged with officials in Saudi Arabia on his efforts to press freedom law in Sudan. Mr. Orwa's newspaper was closed three weeks ago after it carried articles critical of the Bashir government and its Islamic orientation and calling for the separation of southern Sudan. The Sudanese South has been involved in a 10-year civil war with the government. General Bashir signed the closure of Mr. Orwa's newspaper. Before Gen. Bashir seized power in a June 1989 bloodless coup, Sudan had a relatively free press.

Moroccans vote in replay elections

RABAT (AFP) — About 70,000 voters in Morocco were set to vote Tuesday in a partial replay of last year's legislative and local elections. The vote concerns 14 parliamentary and 209 local council seats where in all but one case the outcome of elections held last June and September was invalidated on the grounds of irregularities. The single exception is a by-election to replace a deputy who died. A total of 86 candidates are going after the 14 parliamentary seats though the election will not affect the overwhelming majority of the right and centre-right in the 333-seat assembly.

Chadians, Libyans set pullout timetable

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chadian and Libyan military officers have set a timetable for Libyan withdrawal from the disputed Aouzou Strip in northernmost Chad by May 30, the president's office said here Monday. Dates for a pullout from five localities were worked out in Aouzou township on Sunday by the two sides, with U.N. observers in attendance, the government said. Libya occupied the semi-desert territory in 1972, and the two countries fought a number of wars over it. Both sides are carrying out mine-clearing operations while Libya removes its military garrison and civilian administrative staff. The strip is believed to contain significant deposits of uranium and manganese. Libya is leaving following a ruling by the international Court of Justice at the Hague in February confirming Chadian sovereignty.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Only
18:00 N.B.A. sport
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Great Moments in Science & Technology
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:00 The Best of Magic
21:30 The World of The Thirties
22:00 News in English
22:30 Football

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:53 Asr
16:12 Maghrib
19:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidieh. Tel. 617040
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772521
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625255
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Jesus Christ Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise gradually with winds northerly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	8/24
Amman	14/30
Deserts	7/26
Jordan Valley	12/31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 22, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 794788
Dr. Khalil Jibali 740740
Dr. Mohammed Omran 612222
First pharmacy 648948
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 670055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 676695
Shuieini pharmacy 676690
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Ahmad Qanu ()
Al Quds pharmacy ()

ZARQA: Dr. Rabi' Anailah 984424
Khalaf pharmacy 985477

HOSPITALS AMMAN: Husayni Medical Centre 813612/52 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Emergency 630341 Rescue 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Al-Musader Hospital 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Public Security Department 60321 Hotel Complaints 603800 Water and Sewerage 661176 Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality Complaints 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 771111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-33200 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-33200 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642562 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmouani 664171/4 Shmouani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Army Medical 891611/5 The Islamic, Abdali 665127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/5 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26 Army Medical 891611/5 Queen Alia Hospital 802240/90 Amal Hospital 674135 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)500323 Baqi Hospital (09)980323 Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)980990 IRBID: Princess Beama Hospital (02)225555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225 Be Al-Nadfee Hospital (02)347100 AQABA: Princess Hayes Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLERQUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart- ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALSRoyal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | Time | From | Time | From | |-------|--------------------------|-------|------------------------| | 09:00 | Aqaba (RJ) | 18:35 | Cairo (MS) | | 09:30 | Jeddah (RJ) | 19:10 | Damascus (AZ) | | 09:35 | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) | 19:25 | Larnaca (CY) | | 10:15 | New York, Amsterdam (RJ) | 19:30 | Rome (AZ) | | 10:30 | London (RJ) | 19:35 | Sana'a (Y) | | 10:35 | Istanbul (RJ) | 19:40 | Jeddah (SU) | | 10:45 | Colombo (RJ) | 19:45 | Brussels, Paris (RJ) | | 10:55 | Aqaba, Cairo (RJ) | 19:50 | Madrid, Geneva (RJ) | | 11:00 | Riyadh (RJ) | 19:55 | Toronto, Montreal (RJ) | | 11:10 | New Delhi (RJ) | 20:00 | Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) | | 11:30 | Aden (RJ) | 20:05 | Rome (RJ) | | 11:35 | Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) | 20:10 | London (RJ) | | 11:45 | Jeddah (add) (RJ) | 20:15 | Cairo (RJ) | | 11:55 | Sana'a (RJ) | | | Other Flights (Terminal 2) | Time | From | Time | From | |-------|------------------------|-------|------------------------| | 08:35 | Beirut, Paris (AF) | 19:15 | Beirut (ME) | | 09:15 | Cairo (MS) | 19:20 | Cairo (MS) | | 10:15 | Damascus (AZ) | 19:25 | Rome (AZ) | | 10:20 | Larnaca (CY) | 19:30 | Larnaca (CY) | | 10:25 | Rome (AZ) | 19:35 | Sana'a (Y) | | 10:30 | Sana'a (Y) | 19:40 | Jeddah (SU) | | 10:35 | Jeddah (SU) | 19:45 | Brussels, Paris (RJ) | | 10:40 | Brussels, Paris (RJ) | 19:50 | Madrid, Geneva (RJ) | | 10:45 | Toronto, Montreal (RJ) | 19:55 | Toronto, Montreal (RJ) | | 10:50 | Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) | 20:00 | Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) | | 10:55 | Rome (RJ) | 20:05 | Rome (RJ) | | 11:00 | London (RJ) | 20:10 | London (RJ) | | 11:05 | Cairo (RJ) | 20:15 | Cairo (RJ) |

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	To	Time	To
06:30	Aqaba (RJ)	18:35	Cairo (MS)
08:30	London (add) (RJ)	19:10	Damascus (AZ)
10:30	Rome (RJ)	19:25	Larnaca (CY)
11:15		19:30	Rome (AZ)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	Time	From
09:00	Aqaba (RJ)	18:35	Cairo (MS)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)	19:10	Damascus (AZ)
09:35	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	19:25	Larnaca (CY)
10:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	19:30	Rome (AZ)
10:30	London (RJ)	19:35	Sana'a (Y)
10:35	Istanbul (RJ)	19:40	Jeddah (SU)
10:45	Colombo (RJ)	19:45	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
10:55	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)	19:50	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
11:00	Riyadh (RJ)	19:55	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
11:10	New Delhi (RJ)	20:00	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
11:30	Aden (RJ)	20:05	Rome (RJ)
11:35	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)	20:10	London (RJ)
11:45	Jeddah (add) (RJ)	20:15	Cairo (RJ)
11:55	Sana'a (RJ)		

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Time	From	Time	From
08:35	Beirut, Paris (AF)	19:15	Beirut (ME)
09:15	Cairo (MS)	19:20	Cairo (MS)
10:15	Damascus (AZ)	19:25	Rome (AZ)
10:20	Larnaca (CY)	19:30	Larnaca (CY)
10:25	Rome (AZ)	19:35	Sana'a (Y)
10:30	Sana'a (Y)	19:40	Jeddah (SU)
10:35	Jeddah (SU)	19:45	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
10:40	Brussels, Paris (RJ)	19:50	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
10:45	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)	19:55	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
10:50	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)	20:00	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
10:55	Rome (RJ)	20:05	Rome (RJ)
11:00	London (RJ)	20:10	London (RJ)
11:05	Cairo (RJ)	20:15	Cairo (RJ)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Train	From	Time	To
Dep. Amman	Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday	Amman
Dep. Damascus	Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday	Amman
Dep. Damascus	Damascus	7:30 a.m.	



"We loved her very much and we will miss her." Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, with boys of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage

A mother to all

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "She was a loving mother. She was so kind, so generous. She always gave us everything we wanted. We will miss her very much," said 12-year-old Samir Abu Zweik, a student at Um Al Hussein Orphanage.

The 150 boys of the orphanage were deeply saddened Tuesday to hear of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf.

The Queen Mother was the honorary president of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage,

which was originally established as the Jordanian Orphanage in 1951. Since taking on her role there in 1965, Queen Zein paid undivided attention to the care, education and happiness of the orphans who range in age from six to 18.

Hamdan Eneizat, a first-grade teacher at the orphanage, was preparing a speech for the commencement exercises to graduate the orphanage's senior class when he was brought the sad news.

"I had just brought the speech to the principal and he

told me of the Queen Mother's passing." Grief-stricken, Mr. Eneizat went back to his class to break the news to the children.

The younger ones, he said, kept asking "where did our mother go." "To heaven," he would reply.

The older boys wept, said Mr. Eneizat. The teachers spent the afternoon comforting the children, who could not help but remember that Mother's Day was only a short month ago.

To these children, Mother's Day was always the best day of the year. The

boys would dress in their smart uniforms and set off to the Raghadan Palace for a very special gathering with the Queen Mother.

"Every Mother's Day Queen Zein would greet each and every one of us, give us a gift and then spend time talking to us about how important it is to study so that we would grow up to have a good life," said Kifah Teiyem, a ninth grader.

"I feel like every other orphan does ... now I'm an orphan again ... I lost my mother again," said Kifah.

The sense of loss and sorrow was felt by all at Um Al Hussein Orphanage. All the boys sat quietly with sullen faces and many tears.

As the symbol of motherhood, Queen Zein gave the children the feeling of belonging. She was warm and tender and instilled in them the security of having a family. It is very difficult for such children to so suddenly lose the compassion and source of hope that the Queen Mother gave them, said Ismail Sweidan, a third grade teacher.



Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf

S. Africans vote in embassy in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eight South Africans living in Jordan cast their votes in their country's first municipal elections, one of them, turning up at the makeshift polling booth at the country's diplomatic mission operating out of a hotel room in Amman half an hour before voting started to ensure that she could vote.

But of the voters were embassy staff, headed by the chief of mission, Anthony B. Greenham, who holds the rank of chargé d'affaires. Others included Mrs. Greenham, two tourists and one of three South Africans who are permanent residents in Jordan, Mr. Greenham told the Jordan Times.

Of the three South African nationals, all of them women married to Jordanians and registered with the Jordanian Ministry of Interior, only one turned up to vote.

One of the visitors, a woman, was "so enthusiastic to vote that she called up Monday night to ensure that she could exercise her right to vote," said Mr. Greenham. "She turned up at the mission five minutes before the polls closed," he said.

The day's voting was monitored by an official delegated by the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Greenham said.

The ballot box was to be sealed and packed along with unused ballot papers in the monitor's presence and sent by courier to South Africa immediately after voting closed at 7 p.m.

The South African mission is operating out of the Forte Grand Hotel pending the availability of a suitable building.

Mr. Greenham declined comment when asked how many of the voters here were

black. "We don't do that any more in South Africa," he said, referring to the end of the apartheid that has come to end in his country.

"If you insist, you could say that a majority of the voters were white," he told the Jordan Times.

It was believed that two of the eight voters were black.

Of the three registered non-diplomatic South Africans living in Jordan, two are of Asian origin — described in South Africa as coloured in the apartheid days. The other, who turned up to vote — is white.

Mr. Greenham said he was not aware of any Jordanian who is a permanent resident in South Africa. "But it is quite possible," he said, noting that South African-Jordanian relations have picked up and trade ties were improving in the wake of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Amman and Pretoria last year.

Mr. Greenham deplored the

election violence that plagued his country. "It is a shame," he said, "they are killing innocent people for no reason."

There is an irreversible process of change under way in the country and those who turned to violence for whatever reason do not seem to have been able to comprehend it, he said.

Thousands have died in political violence since President F.W. de Klerk moved to remove the last remnants of racial segregation and organise the country's first multi-racial elections.

At least 24 people were killed in three bombings in South Africa on Monday and Tuesday. International agency reports indicated that whites from the Afrikaner community who resented being forced to share power with the blacks or feared losing their edge in an equal-opportunity post-apartheid South Africa were behind the bombings.

Queen Mother's body flown home



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, other members of the Royal Family and senior officials on Tuesday receive Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor upon their arrival bringing home the

body of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away in a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland (Petra photo)

Israel-PLO autonomy agreement further delayed

(Continued from page 10)

options for the election system, different models, by proportion or mixed. It will be supervised by 22 nations, so it will be totally democratic."

Dr. Erakat added that any Palestinian, from within the occupied territories, can vote or run for office.

He said he had opened talks on the preparations with Palestinian opponents of the

autonomy deal, but declined to elaborate.

"The opposition has the full right to know what we are doing, to have a say in it."

In Paris, Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO negotiator Ahmad Qouria met for nearly three hours early on Tuesday to try to bridge the gap on future economic ties between self-governing Palestinian areas and Israel.

"The meeting was pretty

constructive," said Israeli delegation spokesman Arik Gordin following the session which began late on Monday and carried on into early Tuesday.

"They listed points that will be dealt with during this round of talks and discussed how to handle donor pledges," Mr. Gordin said.

The Paris discussions are taking place parallel to separate talks between Israel and the PLO in Cairo.

Mr. Gordin said on Monday

the economic talks had so far not been very successful while Mr. Shohat said before leaving Israel the Palestinians might have to begin self-rule with Israel still in control of their economy.

But Mr. Gordin said on Tuesday that after Mr. Shohat and Mr. Qouria met, experts from both sides broke up into specialised sub-groups to press ahead with separate discussions on such topics as customs and insurance.

No Yemeni war or partition

(Continued from page 10)

brought the Islamist Ismail party into the coalition government. Mr. Basendwa said the crisis was "power struggle following the elections. It will affect the YSP and the way out of it will entail the YSP sacrificing some of its hawkish who advocate secession."

The GPC and YSP signed a reconciliation accord in Jordan in February providing for political, economic, military and administrative reforms.

Only hours after the signing, rival army units clashed in northern and southern parts of Yemen.

Egypt and the United Arab Emirates are currently mediating in the Yemeni crisis.

An envoy of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left for home on Tuesday at the end of a 10-day visit and said mediation efforts were continuing.

Political sources said Egypt would like to have concrete guarantees from Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh before hosting a summit meeting between them in Cairo.

"What is best about the Egyptian initiative is that Cairo does not want to call for the summit before assurances it will be a success," Mr. Basendwa said.

253 killed in plane crash

(Continued from page 10)

8:18 p.m. (1118 GMT), officials said.

"When I got to the plane, it looked so bad that I thought everyone must have died," said Takahide Miyagi, a

Nagoya district assistant fire chief.

"But then I heard a woman calling in pain for help and I called for a stretcher and we rescued her," he said.

"They agreed the priority was to try to restore momentum to the peace process," said a spokesman. "They will explore urgently the prospects for a cessation of hostilities and engaging the parties in negotiations about a settlement."

The spokesman said the

seven-member contact group would conduct its work "within the remit given by the European Union and the United Nations" and would travel "shortly" to Bosnia, but did not elaborate.

The contact group includes three delegates representing the United Nations and the European Union and two each from the United States and Russia.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British counterpart Douglas Hurd announced the creation of the contact group here Monday after a day of meetings they had with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Russian special envoy Vitaly Churkin.

Serbs have won control of large pieces of the 200-square-kilometre enclave, a U.N.-declared "safe area" that is home to about 65,000 residents and refugees.

The Bosnian Serb military says its forces captured 170 square kilometres.

Jordan Times

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Loss for the nation

THE PASSING of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, yesterday has been and will continue to be deeply mourned by all Jordanians. Not only was she the mother of our leader His Majesty King Hussein but also a Hashemite who made a lasting contribution towards shaping the destiny of the country throughout the past five decades. Right from the start when the Late King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951 at a very critical period in the life of the Kingdom, the late Queen helped steer the country through the difficult transitional period between the reign of King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, and that of King Hussein. Throughout that period and beyond, Her Majesty's unflinching support and wise counsel to the young monarch was critical to the success of the march and to the stability and well-being of the country as a whole. The history of Jordan will accord the Queen Mother a special place in its annals, not only because she gave birth to a born leader and a beloved king, but also because she was in her own right a Hashemite lady who made sacrifice in silence and lived to be an example for others. For all those who were privileged enough to know her well, she exemplified majesty in every sense of the word in dealing with issues and people. There was always time in the late Queen's life for charity, the needy and the handicapped, especially to the orphaned children of Jordan. There were countless occasions when the Queen Mother sponsored activities in order to support those among us who needed help even when her health was failing. Her efforts in this regard will not be easily forgotten.

Jordan today is even more united behind His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the entire Royal Family in their bereavement and time of sorrow. There is in every Jordanian home a sense of loss and sadness that they deeply share with their leader, the ever compassionate father of this nation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN DAILIES commented Tuesday on the U.S. acceptance of Jordan's proposal to replace the sea inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping with a new land-based system to verify the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Al Rai daily said that the U.S. positive response to Jordan's proposals came in the wake of a firm Jordanian position as Jordan repeatedly asserted its compliance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions. The paper pointed out that the sea-inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping is futile since the passages to Iraq are numerous and they are not subject to inspection unless this siege (of Aqaba) has other objectives that are related to the Jordanian position on the peace process. The paper said the U.S. approval of the Jordanian proposals will eliminate a clear contradiction between the objectives of the peace process and the imposition of unjustified sanctions on Jordan.

SAWT AL SHAAB describes U.S. response to Jordan's proposal as a positive development in the U.S. position on the siege of Aqaba. Noting that the development in the U.S. position can be envisaged as a U.S. desire to resume U.S. role in the peace process, the paper said if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher — during his Middle Eastern tour — exerts enough effort to persuade Israel to comply with the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied territories, then the peace process will make reasonable and acceptable proposals. Otherwise, the paper said, Israel and the U.S. administration will be responsible for any failure in the peace process.

AL DUSTOUR daily welcomed the U.S. positive response to Jordan's proposal as righting a wrong and hoped for an immediate realisation at the U.S. promises. Attributing the change in U.S. position to the courageous stance His Majesty King Hussein adopted by insisting on lifting the Aqaba siege prior to any effective Jordanian participation in the peace negotiations, the paper said the termination of sea piracy against Jordan represents an end to plans to distort Jordan's image.

NATO, U.N. face questions over Gorazde mission

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — For the second time in two days, Bosnian Serbs have openly defied the terms of a NATO ultimatum over Gorazde — although the slaughter in the Bosnian enclave has stopped and U.N. forces are now deployed there.

The question is whether the United Nations and NATO have therefore succeeded in their relief mission, or damaged their own credibility even further by failing to launch promised air strikes against Serb forces.

Paradoxically, the answer may be that both are true. NATO and U.N. officials say the most important thing was to stop the onslaught on Gorazde, which has claimed hundreds of lives in recent days despite the fact that it is one of six mainly Muslim U.N.-designated "safe areas" in Bosnia.

With U.N. troops in the town, evacuation of the wounded can begin and aid can flow.

"We threatened air strikes around Gorazde to achieve a clear aim — an end to the killing — and that's all that matters," said one alliance source, who asked not to be identified.

"We never wanted just to bomb the Serbs to make ourselves feel better. We have achieved our aim."

But the fact remains that the Western allies, already under fire for failing to take a tougher line in the two-year war, made threats to use force and then did not deliver.

"A piecemeal approach doesn't do the job, half-

M. KAHIL



heartedness doesn't pay off."

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said on Saturday after the alliance had decided new measures to protect Gorazde and other "safe areas" in Bosnia.

"You have to use more decisive means and we will not hesitate to use them."

NATO asked the United Nations for permission to strike Serb forces around Gorazde on Saturday, since they had ignored alliance demands to stop their attacks immediately.

The United Nations refused, angering Woerner and prompting him to call the special U.N. representative in Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, to try to convince him to give the green light.

Again, more was at stake than just NATO's pride and the fact that the shelling was killing more people in Gorazde.

Akashi was convinced by Serb pledges to withdraw from the town by a NATO deadline of 0001 GMT on Sunday and wanted to give

them the chance to do so. Serb forces did not complete the withdrawal in time but both the United Nations and NATO, closing ranks, said there was no immediate need for air strikes.

Something similar happened with the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, when NATO issued a 10-day ultimatum for the Serbs to withdraw heavy weapons from around the city or hand them over to U.N. forces in February.

The Serbs did not comply in time, although most of the

weapons were withdrawn or handed over. There were no air strikes, even though more heavy weapons were then discovered in the Sarajevo exclusion zone.

The point was that shelling of the city had ended.

NATO officials were anxious on Sunday to play down differences between the alliance and the United Nations over Gorazde. But it is not the first time the two organisations, large bureaucracies with sometimes con-

flicting agendas, have had problems working together in the post-cold war era.

When the United Nations passed a resolution on protecting "safe areas" last June, it gave the authority to order strikes not to NATO, but to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

He finally agreed to delegate that authority to Akashi but only when it emerged that NATO's horror, that it could take several hours during training missions for states to get approval from Boutros-Ghali at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Another part of the problem is that the alliance can act only with the approval of the United Nations. In other words, NATO can issue an ultimatum or set deadlines but cannot — without subsequent U.N. approval — follow through on them.

"In our cooperation with the United Nations, we have broken the golden military rule that you always have a single chain of command," said one official. "It's bound to cause problems."

These factors chip away at the credibility of any rights that are made, perhaps showing the Serbs to believe that they do not need to meet strict NATO deadlines if demands.

"We have to see how far the Serbs will push things but there is the danger that they will test us too far," said another alliance official.

NATO and the United Nations do not have long to wait.

The alliance has told Serbs that they must withdraw all heavy weapons at least 20 km from Gorazde by 0001 GMT on Wednesday.

Today's balance of power makes rivals out of allies

By William Pfaff

PARIS — "I am not responsible for geography," Stalin told the Finnish government in 1938 as the demanded political concessions.

Geography has until our day been the fundamental factor in foreign policy. Dynastic conflict, disputed territorial claims, rivalry over resources, claims on ethnic minorities living across disputed frontiers, the straightforward desire for territorial aggrandisement — these have been the main nonideological causes of war.

Even imperial expansion was a form of territorial rivalry. Within Europe itself, national policy was driven by Hapsburg and Bourbon territorial claims, Napoleonic expansionism, Prussia's ambitions to dominate the other German realms and compete with Austria, its claims on Denmark, its seizure of Alsace and Lorraine in the Franco-Prussian war, Republican France's subsequent obsession with recovering those provinces, the Austro-German-Russian rivalry for influence over the territories breaking away from the Ottoman Empire and in revolt against Austro-Hungary's own authority.

American policy in the 19th century was motivated by the idea of Manifest Destiny on the North American continent, and, in the case of the war with Spain, the idea of Pacific

empire.

Today power and influence no longer are linked to geography. The fact that Serbs and Croats are fighting to expand their national territories is generally taken by the rest of us as another proof that they are captives of ideas from the past. Now national power rests mainly on industry and finance, and on cultural influence.

During the period when the military reach of nations was limited, and the great powers occupied a relatively small part of the globe, policies of power balance made sense. Victory in war, or successful exploitation of the threat of war, required alliances that shifted the calculations of military and naval power. But what exactly does balance of power mean today?

If conflict is economic, what advantage is there in alliance with one potential rival against another? How does alliance, "balance," serve competitive economic interests?

The United States, Japan and the European Union are political and military allies, but they also are supposed to be economic rivals. They manufacture competitive goods and attempt to sell them in the same markets. The idea of economic alliance seems to make sense only as trading zones with barriers against competition. Are Mexico, Canada and the United States in an alliance directed against the European Union and

Japan?

It seems to me that a political vocabulary of power balance is often misapplied today, when commentators talk of alliance with Russia to "contain" China, or with China to "contain" Japan. Can't we then from what? The industrial nations and trading blocs are rivals in certain respects, but they are also mutually dependent in that the prosperity of one relies on the general prosperity of the others. NAFTA and the economic recovery of the United States can only benefit from European and Japanese prosperity, since all are major markets for one another's goods.

Geopolitical rivalry is a zero-sum game in which gains by one require loss for others. Economic rivalry is a matter of marginal gains or losses within a context of general growth (or decline). In this situation, the traditional policy conception of power balance and power advantage risks irrelevance.

I do not say that classical issues of military and political rivalry and intimidation have vanished. Military power certainly remains relevant with respect to the dangers that would arise from anarchical breakdown, political retrogression or the rise of authoritarian nationalism in a nuclear Russia; or with respect to the threat of further breakdown in the Balkans, jeopardising the stability of Albania, Macedonia and Greece and indirectly

threatening West European order.

But the United States, Europe and Japan are not military rivals, and they are today's crucial powers. This means that military power does not have the significance it had before 1989, in this respect the United States, "the only superpower," is no longer as powerful as it was when Russia still was a global power and national power was generally measured in military terms. Military power does not generate employment and prosperity, and that it today's competition.

Effective world power is economic and cultural. It lies in the success and good order of a nation. The nation that can successfully combine economic success and prosperity with social justice will exercise the greatest long-term influence.

In that competition America's power is compromised by the international perception that, in significant respects, it is an unjust society, distinguished by violence, social disorder and decline. European influence is limited by its recent incapacity to create jobs and prosperity. Russia still has enormous power in raw military terms but has drastically lost influence because of its economic and political disorder. These are the new factors of power and weakness in world affairs.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Ozawa emerges victor in Japan feud

By Eugene Moosa
Reuters

TOKYO — It was no dazzling triumph but Ichiro Ozawa emerged as tactical winner of the bruising two-week face-off within Japan's ruling coalition that ended with his ally Tsutomu Hata being named prime minister.

"It was a victory of sorts for Ozawa," commentator Masayuki Fukukawa said. "He got almost everything he wanted."

Mr. Ozawa, the man many Japanese politicians love to hate, manoeuvred his main critic out of the coalition, faced down the troublesome socialists and further weakened the former ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by luring away more of its lawmakers.

After 14 days of brinkmanship, the 51-year-old Schenker achieved the considerable feat on Friday of winning Mr. Hata the premiership while keeping the disparate coalition in business.

Mr. Ozawa's own status as the alliance's master strategist and backroom fixer looks set to remain unchanged.

However, Mr. Ozawa's tactical victory was not the brilliant coup he seems to have had in mind.

"I'd give him 60 points out of 100," said Fukukawa, a politics professor at Hakuho University. "He had to give in to the socialists on basic policies and he failed to split the LDP."

According to many members of parliament, Mr. Ozawa's original masterplan was a simple one.

Knowing that ageing LDP baron Michio Watanabe was desperate for a final chance to be prime minister, he set out to lure him and many supporters over to the coalition, make him head of a transitional government and dump the socialists.

In the first week of the face-off, this reported radical scenario — Mr. Ozawa never owned up to it — sparked open warfare with Masayoshi Takemura, his arch-enemy in the coalition and leader of the small new party Sakigake (Harbingers).

Mr. Takemura bitterly resented the way Mr. Ozawa had dominated the eight-month-old coalition from the wings, practising the backdoor manoeuvring for which he was notorious as an LDP power broker before his 1993 defection.

Mr. Takemura's allies — the Socialists and Centrist Democratic Socialists — shared his misgivings but shrank from confrontation with Mr. Ozawa's conservative mainstreamers. Mr. Takemura finally felt obliged

to pull his party out of the alliance.

To Mr. Ozawa's satisfaction, however, he agreed to back Mr. Hata's premiership and the national budget is party helped to draft.

The daily Sankai Shimbun said the policy platform approved by coalition parties on Friday after days of break-up threats was drafted in secret by Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Watanabe on the assumption that the Left Socialists would be evicted.

In the end the dithering Mr. Watanabe failed to meet Mr. Ozawa's demands to lead a massive LDP defection, although his earlier statement intention to leave piled loose another 13 LDP rebels.

This meant the coalition still depended for its survival on the Socialists, with their 74 seats in the 511-member lower house. After flinching with walking out, the party, which spent 45 years in unbroken opposition between 1948 and 1993, decided it preferred to stay in government for now.

"The socialists are just being made to dance to Mr. Ozawa's tune," said commentator Mizuho Fukushima. "They will eventually lose their identity and will be thrown out like garbage."

The LDP, demoralised since losing its 38-year grip on power last year, is also in steep decline, torn between old-style hardliners and reformists led by ex-premier Toshiki Kaifu.

While things may be taking longer than Mr. Ozawa would have hoped, the events of the past two weeks have done nothing to reverse the wholesale political realignment he has long advocated and now believes is unstoppable.

"We're working toward creating a good political system," he said on Friday. "We're just in the process now."

Mr. Ozawa was once the LDP's crown prince, groomed to take over the mantle of kingmaker won by master-fundaiser Shin Kanemaru. But after Mr. Kanemaru was felled by a scandal over his colossal influence-peddling exploits, Mr. Ozawa defected with a group of colleagues in 1993, bringing down the LDP government.

Then, with fellow conspirator Mr. Hata, Ozawa set up the Shinseitō (Renewal Party), which was to be instrumental in installing Mr. Hosokawa's coalition last August.

True to style, the secretive Mr. Ozawa persuaded Mr. Hata to become party head and he also refused a cabinet position.

"I'm not going to take a post," Mr. Ozawa reiterated.

British neo-Fascists confident of breakthrough

By Robert Woodward
Reuters

LONDON — To nervous opponents, the neo-Fascist British National Party's bid for control of a London council poses the most serious threat to racial peace in the capital for 60 years.

Racially-motivated attacks in London's East End, an ethnically mixed and white working class district, have increased 300 per cent since the BNP won a council seat on the Isle of Dogs at a by-election last September.

It was only the fifth such success by an extreme right-wing party in Britain.

A BNP victory in the Isle of Dogs in local elections next month, which would give it control of a U.S. \$30 million budget, would be a watershed in British politics and lead to more serious trouble, politicians say.

"If the BNP wins there's going to be fighting on the streets. It could be another Yugoslavia," said Julia Mainwaring, a candidate for the Labour Party. Labour holds power on the Isle of Dogs and is the main opposition party nationally.

"It will be a disaster, it would be like putting a nuclear bomb here," says Anamul Haque, founder of the Tower Hamlets Against Rac-

ism pressure group in the East End. "We would be dealing with a party that openly advocates forced repatriation. It would be a big blow to democracy in Britain, a mad thing to happen."

The BNP, which will put forward more than 30 candidates nationwide at the elections on May 5, says it does not know what the fuss is about. It says its supporters stay within the law and it is merely voicing the concerns of ordinary Britons.

Not all Britons, of course, are just the whites.

"Our definition of racism is that we want a council and a government that looks after British people. And by British we mean white," says BNP spokesman Mike Newland.

"We tell people who want to go round attacking black people because they resent them in this country. 'Don't break the law — join with us in legitimate political activity'. That's a perfectly proper thing for us to do."

Since the BNP set up its headquarters in a bookshop in nearby south London about three years ago, there has been a sharp increase in racial attacks in areas of the capital with significant black and Asian populations.

Shortly before the BNP's

Derek Beackon won his seat by just seven votes, an Asian boy, Qudus Ali, was beaten badly by white youths. Protest marches over the incident caused Britain's worst race-related unrest since inner-city riots in the early 1980s.

Tower Hamlets council is run by the centrist liberal democrats. But under their devolved system the Isle of Dogs has its own "neighbourhood" council. The BNP hopes to win three of the Isle of Dogs' five seats, giving it overall control.

Politics in the East End have embraced both the hard left of Dockworkers' Unions and the extreme right of Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts of the 1930s, a nationwide movement which died with the outbreak of World War II against Nazi Germany in 1939.

The BNP believes it can become a permanent force in the East End by tapping fears of whites that immigrants jump the queue for scarce housing and dislusion with established political parties, fanned by a jobless rate of about 20 per cent.

"There is a growing awareness of the split between the three main parties and ordinary people. They (parties) simply don't repre-

sent them any more — they take no notice of what people in this country want," Newland told Reuters.

"We are trying to take over from Labour as the party of ordinary people," he added. The conservatives, in government nationally, have only a small following in East London.

The BNP has tried to shake off its popular image of shaven-headed yobs roaming the backstreets attacking blacks, and put itself forward as a serious political force.

"In the past the only way we could get publicity was by doing things like marches which then attracted violence... then of course we were associated with violence," Newland said.

"We haven't given credibility to beating people up on the street, we've never encouraged people to do that, we've never organised it," he said. "But we've given a greater degree of respectability to right-wing political activity."

Anti-racist campaigners say BNP proposals to repatriate immigrants and repeal race relations legislation has legitimised racist violence. They also blame increased tension on local Liberal Democrat and Labour figures playing the "race card".



NEWS IN BRIEF

18 more Palestinians to return home

AMMAN (AP) — Eighteen more Palestinian deportees are scheduled to cross into the West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday as a result of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreements, a PLO official said Tuesday. Omar Khatib, deputy chief of the PLO mission here, said 11 of the latest batch will cross the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank. The rest will use the Rafah crossing from Egypt to Gaza. Mr. Khatib said he had received a list of 18 Palestinians from PLO negotiators in Cairo. He said that earlier Israel had agreed to only eight.

Yemen, S. Arabia postpone new border talks

SANAA (R) — A new round of talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to settle a long-standing dispute over a possible oil-rich border area has been postponed, Yemeni officials said on Tuesday. The talks between experts from both countries were due to start in Riyadh on Monday. One official source said Yemen asked for more time to study a message sent last week by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to its President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The message was conveyed by Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Khawater, who heads the Saudi delegation to the border talks. Seven rounds of border talks have been held so far, but the source said little progress has been made.

Iran women to work in the legal system

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has passed a draft law allowing women to become legal advisors for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, parliamentary sources said Tuesday. The vote infuriated hardline deputies. One said: "women are weak, and could change their judgment if seduced." Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri rejected the argument during the debate on Sunday, saying Islam had never prevented women from securing legal advisors to the courts.

UAE seized hundreds of illegal immigrants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Coast guards in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have seized nearly 300 illegal immigrants from Asia in separate raids on boats off the eastern coast, a spokesman said Tuesday. He said 36 were captured as they tried to land near the port of Fujairah early Tuesday and 38 were seized in the same area on Monday. The nearly 300 immigrants so far this month have included 70 Iranians, 61 Pakistanis, 58 Indians, 57 Bangladeshis and the rest were Afghans, the coast guard spokesman told AFP by telephone from Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman.

Sudanese diplomat in Somali captivity

NAIROBI (AFP) — Efforts to secure the release of the Sudanese ambassador kidnapped by Somali gunmen in Mogadishu last week have failed as factional fighting kept officials from meeting the abductors, officials said Tuesday. Sudanese officials who went to the Somali capital last week to try to negotiate with the kidnappers were available to meet the abductors because factional fighting prevented them from moving around the city, a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy here said. The ambassador, Abdul Bagi Mohammad Hassan, was abducted on Tuesday last week by four Somalis who said they were from the Hawadle clan. They demanded a ransom of \$100,000.

Former editor of Cyprus Mail dies

NICOSIA (AP) — Ken Mackenzie, former editor of the Cyprus Mail, has died. He was 73. The English-language newspaper Tuesday reported that police found Mackenzie, a Scot, dead in his Nicosia apartment on Sunday. The cause of death was not given. Coroner Marios Matsakis was quoted as saying Mackenzie had been dead for three to five days, but no foul play was suspected. Mackenzie was editor of the Mail in the late 1950s. He later worked for the Economist newspaper in London and Turkey, where he also wrote for the Observer, before retiring in Cyprus.

Syria, Russia discuss military ties

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian and Russian officials on Tuesday held their second day of talks reportedly dealing with military and economic cooperation between the two countries. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said the talks focused on the "friendship and cooperation between the Syrian and Russian armies and ways of boosting them." It did not elaborate. Sources said the two sides were expected to seek new contracts for spare parts that would put weapons Syria received from the former Soviet Union. Earlier, SANA reported that Syria's ministers of economy, finance and planning had lengthy talks with Russians to discuss "ways of boosting trade, economic and technical relations." After the first round of talks Monday, Syrian officials said the two sides also would discuss rescheduling Syria's debts.

Saddam birthday festivities start

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is preparing an elaborate programme of events to mark President Saddam Hussein's 57th birthday. Baghdad's official press on Tuesday unveiled plans for a series of events leading to the April 28 birthday celebration in Tikrit, President Saddam's home town, from street parties to parades, art festivals, exhibitions and music concerts. Streets in Baghdad and Tikrit, 170 kilometres north of the capital, are festooned with ribbons and colourful portraits of President Saddam.

Son of Mexican magnate kidnapped

MEXICO CITY (R) — The son of a supermarket magnate was kidnapped Monday, the second abduction of a wealthy Mexican in six weeks. Separately, the abductors who seized the chairman of Mexico's biggest banking group on March 14 repeated their threat to kill him unless the ransom — which they said was less than \$100 million — was paid. The threat was made in a letter to Reuters. It was unclear whether the two kidnappings were related. In what seemed to be an effort to calm local businessmen and international investors worried about the rising violence, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari Monday created a new agency to coordinate national public security.

Rescuers find \$650,000 after Russian crash

MOSCOW (R) — Almost \$650,000 in cash has been recovered from the site of last month's Airbus A-310 crash and handed over to a government commission in Siberia, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday. The agency quoted an official from the Siberian Kemerovo region as saying cash collected by rescue teams working on the wreckage comprised \$375,000 and 500 million roubles from Moscow to Hong Kong died when the European-built airliner crashed near the town of Mezhdurechensk. A Russian government commission investigating the accident has said a member of the cockpit crew was showing his children how to pilot the plane minutes before it went down, but the cause of the crash has not yet been officially determined.

Kazakhstan, China settle border dispute

ALMATY (AFP) — President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Chinese Premier Li Peng signed here Tuesday a landmark treaty ending a longstanding border dispute and giving a new impetus to bilateral relations. "This treaty will give a strong push to further development of friendly relations between our two countries," the Chinese premier said here following the signing of the border treaty. "We have just witnessed the signing of the border treaty," said Mr. Nazarbayev of the treaty defining the entire 1,700-kilometre (1,062-mile) border between the two countries.

Amman hosts conference on museums and heri

Jordan underlines keen interest in preserving human culture

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saeed Tal Tuesday formally opened a four-day conference entitled "Encounter Professionals of Arab Countries' Museums, Civilisation and Development" at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman in the presence of President of Mali Alpha Omar Conary and other dignitaries.

In his brief address, Dr. Tal welcomed the Mali president and underlined Jordan's deep interest in preserving human culture and promoting the work and the role of museums.

Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan addressed the opening ceremony dwelling on the importance of museums and their role in culture.

Jordan is an open museum dotted with numerous archaeological sites that relate the tale of ancient civilisations and the history of humanity and common heritage, the minister said.

The role of museums in highlighting and documenting the human perpetuity among peoples and civilisations over the epochs of history constitute a scientific and cultural link where the care for museum forms a common international responsibility and a source of great care to all countries, Dr. Adwan added.

Mounir Bouchnaki, representative of the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) addressed the session as did Mr. Saraj Ghose, president of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and Dr. Safwan Tal, director general of the department of antiquities.

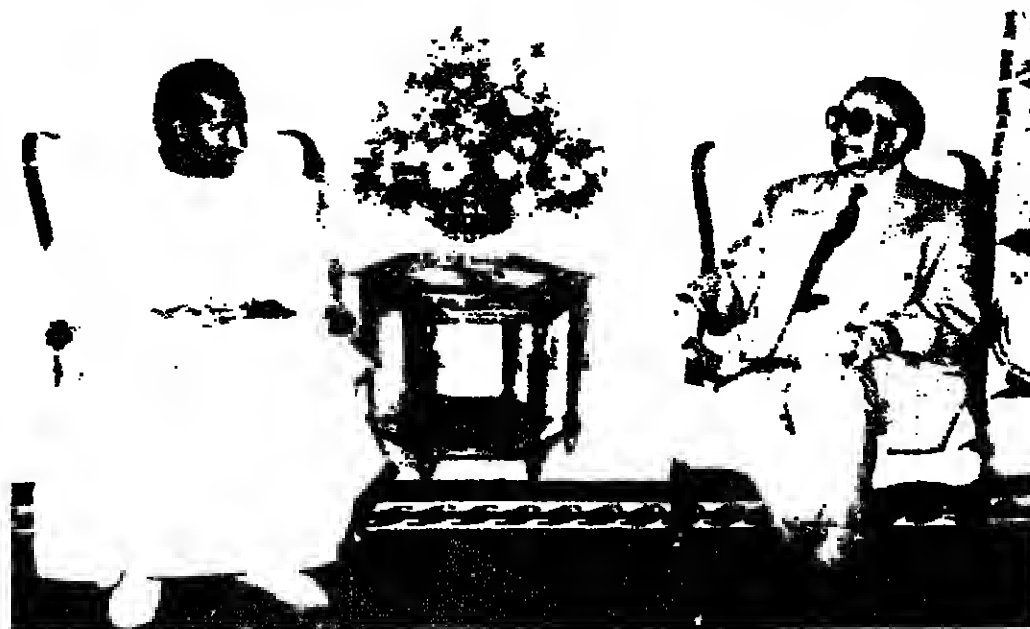
Dr. Ghose told the meeting that the conference was seeking to take stock of the state of the art in Arab museums and mobilise the cumulative pool of knowledge from the world of museums.

He said that museums serve as custodians of the human heritage and therefore have the responsibility of linking the future of man with his heritage of the past.

Dr. Conary addressed the audience by expressing condolences to the royal family and the Jordanian people on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zein.

The president focused attention on the need to promote the work of museums and related his country's endeavours in this respect.

Dr. Conary, who once served as ICOM president, paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his attention to promote world culture and the meeting, organised in



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Tuesday holds talks with Mali President Alpha Omar

Conary, who arrived here to attend a conference on museums (Petra photo)

thanked him for his invitation to visit Jordan.

He underlined the need for states and non-governmental organisations to cooperate in promoting world culture.

The meeting, organised in

implementation of directives by the Regent, is designed to underline the importance of artefacts, antiquities and museums in shedding light on the legacy and various cultures left by mankind, according to

Dr. Tal.

More than 80 professionals from 20 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the meeting. The delegation will be taken on tours to archaeological sites in the country.

Cut in sales tax rate means no payraises or additional services

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hopes of civil servants for a possible pay rise this year have all but vanished in the wake of the slashing of the rate of sales tax in the related draft by the Lower House of Parliament this week, officials and analysts said Tuesday.

During their debate on the draft law on Sunday, deputies voted to reduce the general rate of sales tax from 10 per cent to seven per cent.

This reduction is estimated to cut the expected tax revenues for fiscal 1994 from JD 170 million to JD 150 million, analysts say.

While the government did not make an explicit linkage between the tax and a possible salary increase for civil servants, statements by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Finance Minister Sami Gammooh before Sunday's vote had left the door open for an eventual increase in salaries in the public sector.

Dr. Majali told Parliament during the pre-vote debate on the floor that any slashing of the rate of sales tax would not only preempt civil servant pay raises, but also infrastructure and government services demanded by their constituencies.

In a press conference on Monday, Dr. Majali reaffirmed the position and said the deputies "will have to be satisfied with the shortcoming in the budget."

The prime minister was answering a question whether

the government was planning any interim measure to plug the expected shortfall in the budget for 1994 as a result of the slashing in the sales tax rate.

For the first time, according to the government interpretation, the nearly JD 1.5 billion budget for 1994 does not have a pre-financing deficit. Local revenues and committed foreign assistance worth JD 150 million would make up projected expenditures.

However, the budget does not include an estimated JD 300 million for servicing foreign debts. This gap is expected to be plugged by international donors.

In his comments on Monday, Dr. Majali did not refer to any such measures, but noted that if the government were to increase civil servant salaries and also meet the demands of the deputies for services and infrastructure it has to have more funds.

A senior official said: "It is simple. The deputies cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, they have cut down the expected government revenues, while on the other hand they want the government to increase salaries and also finance projects in their constituencies."

Government officials have been saying that there were no plans for any across-the-board pay raise for civil servants, but the local media have spoken of a government committee report that was supposed to have included an increase.

The purported report, whose existence officials have denied, was also supposed to

have included higher allowances for members of Parliament.

According to the reports, members of Parliament will get an increase of JD 400, making their monthly allowance JD 1,000, and senior officials of the rank of secretary-generals of ministries, including heads of government departments, will get a monthly increase of JD 500.

The reports suggested that an across-the-board raise of JD 22 for all categories of government servants and public sector employees was being considered as the proposed raise.

While denying the report, Mr. Gammooh, the finance minister, affirmed that month that the government was considering an efficiency-oriented incentive programme for civil servants.

"We have been studying such a plan for some time now," Mr. Gammooh said. "This would only involve those civil servants who prove their efficiency and productivity."

Mr. Gammooh declined to give details of the efficiency-oriented pay raises, pointing out that the committee had not completed its work.

Other officials said the orientation was towards civil servants who have had proven records of efficiency as well as those who work in rural areas where the relative luxuries and better living conditions are lacking.

There was no indication on Tuesday whether the government was forced to abandon this scheme also as a result of the cut in tax revenues.

Ekeus has no schedule for ending sanctions on Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The United Nations needs more time to implement its monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme before it will lift its trade embargo, a U.N. envoy said on Tuesday at the end of a visit to Baghdad.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, did not give Iraq a timetable for when it could resume oil exports as Baghdad has been hoping.

"It is up to the Security Council to take any steps like easing sanctions or lifting the embargo on Iraq," Mr. Ekeus told a news conference before leaving.

U.N. officials have said the destruction of Iraq's prohibited weapons is almost complete but they are seeking further documentation on the manufacture and disposal of chemical weapons.

Mr. Ekeus said the U.N. needed more time and action to put its arms monitoring and verification programme into action.

"We are close to end the chapter, but it is not completely closed," he said.

Mr. Ekeus said he was phasing out Iraq inspections and focusing on how to ensure that Baghdad would not reacquire weapons banned under the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"Fundamentally we are leaving the stage of identifying the past programme (and are) putting monitoring and verification in place," the envoy said.

Mr. Ekeus expressed "appreciation for the positive response and support given to our inspection team by the Iraqi authorities," U.N. spokesman Tim Trevan said.

Baghdad was committed to cooperating with UNSCOM in charge of stripping post-war Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Trevan said the UNSCOM chief read out a joint U.N.-Iraqi statement after a new round of talks with Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf.

"The progress made is considerable" since March, when Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz travelled to New York to urge the United Nations to lift its embargo on his country, the statement said.

But UNSCOM had not yet reached the stage when it could report to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq had complied with its commitments under paragraph 22 of the Resolution 687.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mr. Ekeus, who met Mr. Aziz on Monday, had held detailed talks since Sunday on setting up a timetable for the monitoring programme as well as for the implementation of paragraph 22.

The paragraph states that the oil embargo will be lifted once Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations on disarmament.

Mr. Ekeus said a probationary period would be necessary to see how well the long-term monitoring worked before UNSCOM could state that Baghdad had complied with U.N. demands.

Israel refloods Hula

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel began reflooding the northern Hula Valley on Monday, four decades after it halted the draining of the wetlands as a triumph of man over nature.

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) scheme of dry out the ancient swamps and lake north of the Sea of Galilee, discussed for almost a century, began soon after Israel was established in 1948 to create farmland which was in short supply.

Upon completion in 1958, it was hailed as another example of the new state's conquest over nature. But victory was declared too soon.

Soil under the lake, expected to be marginal, was discovered to be among the most fertile in Israel. But soil under the former swamp further north — much larger than the lake — did not meet enthusiastic predictions.

At the same time, changes in the course of the Jordan River damaged the quality of water entering the Sea of Galilee, threatening the source of one third of Israel's fresh water.

Now the JNF, Israel's agriculture ministry, land and water authorities are investing \$20 million in projects to restore a large part of the wetlands.

Under the plan about a quarter of the former swamps, now soggy farmland, will become a recreation area.

On Monday, officials inaugurated the project by opening a dam and flooding 617 hectares with water from the Jordan, an agriculture ministry spokesman said.

The plan falls short of full restoration — the old lake bottom, for example, is too valuable to reflood.

The Jordan River course, straightened to speed its flow through the valley in the 1950s, will return to the meandering stream that watered the most northern papyrus swamp in the Middle East.

Residents, now unable to earn a living from increasingly waterlogged land, will run lucrative tourist facilities. Hotels will be banned to protect the environment.

When the drainage project started in 1951, a few years after DDT had eradicated the malaria that once ravaged the former residents, the shallow Lake Hula covered 14 square kilometres while its swamps spread over 21 square kilometres — and three times that area during winter rains.

The drainage destroyed the valley's ecology, eradicating a rich variety of birds and plants along with the mosquitoes.

"The assessment is that all the animals which were in Hula in the past will return," agriculture ministry official Yigal Chen said in a radio interview on Sunday.

Written records dating back 3,500 years refer to Hula as a vital source of fresh water and a route for every type of life moving along the great slash of the rift valley that reaches from Africa to Syria.

The cycle of draining and flooding the valley has been going on for thousands, probably millions, of years.

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND EGYPT ADVERTISEMENT FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JE 06/90 FOR AQABA 400/132 KV SUBSTATION AND CABLE TERMINAL STATION AT AQABA SHORE IN JORDAN

The Jordan Electricity Authority declares the reissue of Tender No. JE06/90 for Aqaba 400/132KV Substation and Cable Terminal Station at the Aqaba shore in Jordan which includes:

- The engineering, design, CIF delivery, installing, testing and commissioning of 400KV SF6 metalclad switchgear (Option 1) or conventional switchgear (option 2) and ancillary equipment complete with civil works and fireproofing system for transformers and shunt reactors for Aqaba 400/132 KV Substation.
- Engineering, design, CIF delivery, installing, testing and commissioning of one cable terminal station at the Aqaba gulf shore in Jordan, complete with ancillary equipment.

The tenderer is requested to nominate subcontractors for civil and erection works which should be local companies registered according to current laws in Jordan.

Tenders are to be submitted to the Jordan Electricity Authority and to be in two envelopes: one envelope for the technical offer and the other for the financial offer and to be submitted at the same time.

The financial offer should include a bid bond not less than 2 per cent of the total tender price. Submission of tender should not be later than 10 o'clock Amman time on August 1, 1994.

Tender documents can be obtained from the offices of the Jordan Electricity Authority against a cash payment of US\$1000 or a certified cheque for the same amount in the name of the Jordan Electricity Authority and to fill the purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

In case the tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be added.

Offers for this tender will be opened at 12 o'clock noon Amman time, in Amman, on August 1, 1994. The tender should be valid for 150 days from date of opening the tenders.

New Japanese premier faces prospect of weak, minority rule

TOKYO (R) — New Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata faced the unsettling prospect Tuesday of minority rule and possible early elections after the biggest party in the ruling coalition walked out in disgust.

Months of policy battles and a power struggle finally took their toll on the weak eight-month alliance, which only barely mustered the votes to install Mr. Hata as prime minister Monday.

By Tuesday the Socialist Party had quit in protest at what it saw as an attempt by the coalition's conservatives to freeze it out of policy-making.

Without the Socialists, Mr. Hata will have to settle for forming Japan's first minority government since 1948, a development which is likely further to delay legislation and hasten general elections, not normally due until summer 1997.

"We're in for more weak leadership because of what's happened," said Takeshi Sasaki, a Tokyo University politics professor. "It'll be difficult to avoid an early election."

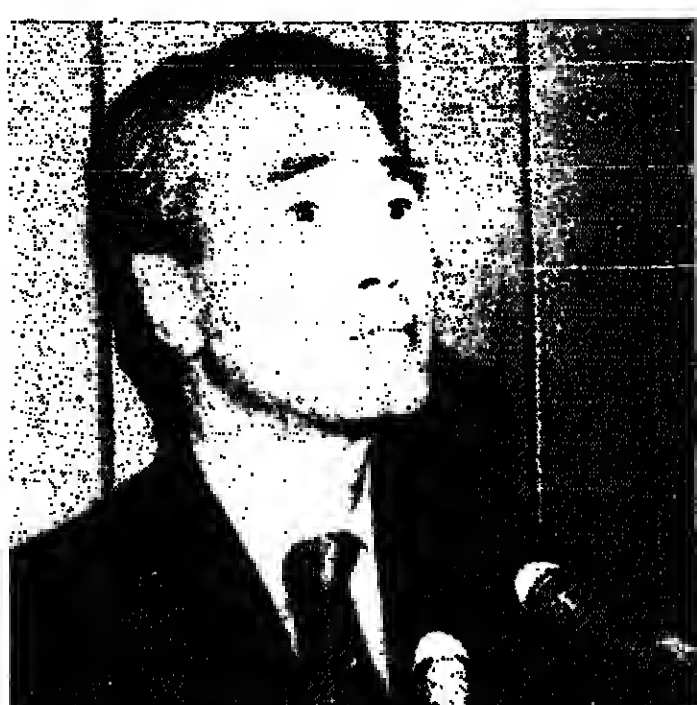
Mr. Hata, who has yet to form a cabinet, decided to make a last-ditch attempt to woo back the Socialists by seeking a meeting with their leader, Tomiichi Murayama.

"The main aim of the meeting will be to maintain the coalition's unity," cabinet office spokesman Nobuo Ishihara told reporters. He said nothing had yet been scheduled and a Socialist Party spokesman said it was not certain the meeting would take place.

Hirotsugu Akamatsu, former Socialist secretary-general, ruled out the possibility of his party returning to a coalition dominated by Mr. Hata's chief ally, backroom fixer Ichiro Ozawa.

The crisis followed weeks of bitter feuding over coalition policy between Socialists and conservatives.

The warring factions buried



Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Tomiichi Murayama announces that his party will leave the coalition government following the sudden emergence of a rival bloc, at a press conference at the SDP headquarters (AFP photo)

the hatchet Friday and settled on Mr. Hata for prime minister, only for tensions to flare again Monday just as he began work on forming a cabinet.

The trigger was the sudden announcement by Mr. Ozawa's group of the formation of a coalition parliamentary bloc called Kaishin (Reformation), excluding the Socialists who were not even consulted in advance.

The Socialist pullout now threatens to prolong a paralysis of government. Apart from the budget, the deadlock has blocked progress in solving U.S.-Japan trade disputes.

At the root of the crisis is widespread resentment of Mr. Ozawa and his plans to create a new conservative party to compete against the once-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), still the biggest

parliamentary group.

The Socialists and some centrist parties want to see the emergence of a true multi-party system, a balance of conservatives, liberals and leftists.

Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata both came from the LDP's right-wing. They were protégés of party kingmaker Shin Kanemaru, who wielded immense power as Japan's backstage political boss.

After he was toppled by a corruption scam, Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata led a group of dissidents out of the LDP in 1993 and launched the Shinseito (Renewal Party) now dominating the coalition.

"How can they scheme to create a new party and expect us to stay in the coalition?" said Socialist lawmaker Hideko Ito.

The Socialists hold 74 seats

in the 511-strong lower house. Without them, Mr. Hata has 187 seats compared to the LDP's 206.

LDP chief Yohei Kono raised the possibility of cooperating with the Socialists in parliament, a development that could set the stage for a no-confidence vote against the Hata government.

"What's happened to the Socialists is wrong... I think we'll be able to talk with them," he told reporters.

Banri Kaieda, a lawmaker who has joined the new bloc, said Mr. Ozawa's aim was to force the break-up of both the Socialists and the LDP, twin pillars of Japan's cold war-era system.

"We're going to see many things unfold as a result of what's happened," he said. "The Socialists and the LDP are not united internally and they could begin unravelling."

Meanwhile, cabinet office spokesman Ishihara urged Mr. Hata to name his cabinet by Thursday so that government business could proceed smoothly. Japan starts a 10-day holiday from Friday.

Meanwhile, South Korea's defence minister arrived in Japan Tuesday for talks with his Japanese counterpart — but it was not immediately clear who this would be.

Japan's cabinet resigned Monday and hopes of quickly forming a new one were dashed after the Socialists announced they were walking out.

A defence agency spokesman said he did not know who South Korean Minister Rhee Byoung-Tea would meet for talks scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

"We can't be sure yet," he said. "If there's a new cabinet by then, he'll meet the new one."

If not, he said, Mr. Rhee would probably meet Kazuo Aichi, the defence chief who resigned Monday.

Shaky truce holds in Rwandan capital

NAIROBI (AP) — A shaky ceasefire marred by brief, heavy mortar exchanges was holding in the Rwandan capital Tuesday, but militias continued their killing spree in the countryside.

United Nations spokesman Abdul Kabia in Kigali, the capital, said mortar rounds exploded near U.N. headquarters in the city and at the National Stadium where thousands of people remain under U.N. protection. There were no casualties.

The Hutu-run government army and the mostly Tutsi rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) also waged a brief but heavy mortar and small arms duel in the city centre Tuesday morning, he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Kabia said while the capital remained relatively quiet, the ethnic slaughter continued in government-controlled areas, particularly near Butare in southern Rwanda.

"The massacres are still going on, most in the southern part of the country. The northern and eastern part of the

country is almost completely controlled by the RPF and we have not heard of any massacres there," Mr. Kabia said.

Relief workers estimate 100,000 people have been killed since the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, were killed in a suspicious plane crash April 6.

The deaths triggered new bloodletting between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi ethnic groups and reignited Rwanda's civil war after a nine-month truce.

Both the government and the rebels declared unilateral ceasefires Monday, and Mr. Kabia said the United Nations delivered a terse, eight-paragraph proposed ceasefire agreement to both sides Tuesday morning. There was no immediate response to the U.N. proposal.

Mr. Kabia said the rebel ceasefire declaration included conditions that must be met within 96 hours of its beginning at midnight Monday.

"Within 96 hours the government forces must stop all the killings and acts of violence in areas under their control,"

he said.

The conditions also included a complete observance of the ceasefire, joint control of the Kigali Airport and the establishment of safe corridors for delivering humanitarian aid, Mr. Kabia said.

A U.N. source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no indication the army was doing anything to stop the ethnic massacres in areas under government control.

The government said the killings are being carried out by militias it cannot control and has called for joint patrols by the army and the rebels to stop the killings, the source said.

"The militias have been on a rampage throughout the country and are operating basically in areas controlled by the government forces. So there is the impression of connivance by government forces," the source said.

The source, with access to military reports, said the rebels control the centre of Kigali and the north and northeast of the country.

Cardin takes his style to India

PARIS (AFP) — French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has left for India to open Cardin shops in Bombay, New Delhi and Calcutta, sources close to the company said Tuesday.

Cardin plans to open about 40 shops in India by 1995 through his firm Pierre Cardin Fashions Private Limited. It is the first French fashion house to establish such a presence in the Indian market. Cardin left Paris Monday. The company has signed contracts with the French government for supplying uniforms, ready-to-wear clothing and perfume. Fashion shows are to be held in New Delhi on May 2 and in Bombay on May 4. Pierre Cardin has visited India many times during the last 30 years. "I went to India when there was no business to be done. Time has proved me right," he said. Cardin was also to visit Beijing for the second international clothing and accessories fair known as "Chic 94" from April 27 to May 1 where he was to present cotton tropical clothing for men and women. Cardin has signed more than 25 contracts with China.

At the other end of the world, the 5th division of the U.S. Marine Corps is set to arrive in the Pacific Islands. The division is part of the U.S. military's effort to maintain its presence in the region. The division's arrival is expected to be a significant event for the local population.

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Salvador president-elect meets opposition

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The winner of El Salvador's first postwar presidential election, Armando Calderon Sol, held talks Monday with left-wing opponents to assure stability and keep the country's peace process alive.

Fresh from his strong victory in Sunday's runoff election, the right-wing lawyer met defeated opposition candidate Ruben Zamora and veteran former

guerrilla leader Schafik Handal.

"I believe we could talk about the legislative priorities as an agenda for working together," Mr. Calderon Sol told reporters as he came out of the talks. "We need to search for levels of unity."

The parliament's outgoing legislators were expected this week to approve changes paving the way for electoral re-

forms, an overhaul of the corrupt judicial system and other reforms laid out in U.N.-brokered peace accords that ended El Salvador's 12-year civil war two years ago.

The three leaders, seeking to return to a country sharply polarised by a bitter election campaign, also discussed ways to resurrect the process of national reconciliation.

Soldiers kill 23 in raid on Haiti slum

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Soldiers massacred at least 23 fishermen and merchants in the west coast city of Gonaives, witnesses and human rights advocates said Monday.

After raiding a stronghold of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the soldiers took to rowboats and fired indiscriminately on people getting fish, firewood and other supplies from the boats, the witnesses said. The attack took place Saturday but first reports emerged Monday.

The killings came as Washington has toughened its stance against the military, which has dominated Haiti since ousting the elected Aristide in a 1991 coup. Up to 3,000 people, many of them Aristide supporters, have been killed since in political violence.

The Clinton administration says it plans to tighten an economic embargo on Haiti to pressure the military to leave. The coup and embargo have combined to produce widespread suffering in the America's poorest nation, but the military has enriched itself by dominating a black market for fuel oil smuggled in from the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

Residents and the pro-

Aristide Haitian Information Bureau said the attack began with a raid on the dusty, seaside slum of Raboteau in Gonaives, 170 kilometres (105 miles) north of the capital Port-Au-Prince. The witnesses gave this account:

Soldiers saying they were looking for armed Aristide partisans shot into the air, roared people from their beds and roughed them up. No one was killed or injured.

However, the soldiers returned hours later, at dawn Saturday, firing at embarking fishermen. They commandeered rowboats and hunted down fishermen and merchants bringing in goods.

The bodies washed ashore gradually. Three Saturday and at least 20 from Sunday to early Monday afternoon, said the witnesses speaking on condition of anonymity.

By Monday, many Raboteau residents had left their homes for fear of further attack.

There was no immediate comment from state radio or from the military.

"I think this is a continuation of the effort to decapitate the democratic movement in Haiti," Ira Kurzman, the U.S. counsel for Mr. Aristide's government, told the Associated Press from his office in Miami.

Gonaives led the struggle to topple the 29-year Duvalier family dictatorship in 1986, and the city was a stronghold of support for Mr. Aristide in his overwhelming electoral triumph in 1990.

In recent months, however, the Raboteau slum has been a scene of struggle between Aristide supporters and militants of a neo-Duvalierist paramilitary movement, the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH).

Also Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard ship back 98 Haitian boat people who had been intercepted trying to flee their troubled homeland. U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragar said 18 of the refugees were detained by Haitian authorities after being repatriated.

Under a May 1992 White House order, Haitian boat people intercepted at sea are returned home without a check to determine whether they are fleeing economic devastation or political persecution.

The Clinton administration said the direct-return policy keeps more Haitians from risking their lives at sea; Aristide and his supporters say the repatriations violate international law and expose the refugees to retaliation.

Armenian grip on Karabakh falters as heavy fighting continues

YEREVAN (AFP) — Heavy fighting around the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has seriously threatened the Karabakh-Armenian army's hold on the region, observers of the six-year-old conflict with Azerbaijan said here.

Karabakh forces face a more disciplined enemy that has dealt them severe blows in the past two weeks of clashes along all fronts, while few supplies of fuel and other material are coming through the tortuous Lachin corridor from Armenia.

Morale has also been hit by Azerbaijan air raids on the enclave's capital of Stepanakert, including the alleged use of anti-personnel cluster bombs.

The tired armed forces of the Armenian-populated enclave within Azerbaijan are also short of recruits.

"I have been here for three months — I don't know when I'll be able to rest," said an exhausted military surgeon at a field hospital in Agdam, a key town of the eastern flank.

Few young men walk the streets of Stepanakert. The handful of Armenian volunteers who arrived each day on the bus from Yerevan are not enough to replace casualties.

Losses of more than 200 dead and 1,000 wounded in the recent fighting, according to the estimate of a senior military source in Nagorno-Karabakh, have severely dented the 15,000 strong force, which was already very thinly spread along the front line at the time of Azerbaijan's January offensive.

But the powerful prime minister and head of the Karabakh National Defence Committee, Robert Kocharyan, slammed the CSCE negotiations and Russian diplomatic moves, saying they only increased the bloodshed.

The Karabakh authorities say the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force is the best means of enforcing any future peace agreement.

But only Russia — viewed by both sides with deep suspicion after its military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan at different stages of a war in which at least 20,000 people have died — has offered to send peacekeepers.

And neither the Azerbaijanis nor the Karabakh Armenians have budged from their respective negotiating positions. The former want the Armenians to withdraw their forces before any peacekeepers arrive, while the latter say the peacekeepers must come first.

The Armenians are still holding on but Azerbaijan President Gaidar Aliyev is pushing hard for a military success, mindful that all his predecessors fell as a result of military reverses in Karabakh.

On the ground, there is little spirit of compromise. According to an aid official in Stepanakert, both sides routinely shoot prisoners.

Drawing heavily on a cheap cigarette, the surgeon in Agdam said: "I think this war is not good for us or the Azeris — but we are fighting for our existence."

In earlier battles, the Karabakh army benefited from detailed knowledge of the mountainous territory, encircling and pounding Azerbaijani troops on difficult terrain.

But its very successes which captured huge swathes of Azerbaijan territory, linked the enclave up with Armenia and brought it to the Iranian border, mean the eastern and southern fronts are now located on flat land, leaving the Karabakh army more vulnerable to artillery, tanks and jet fighters.

Aid workers who were near Fisuli on the southern front, the Karabakh army's weakest point, said they heard shells land continuously for several hours last week.

Wounded soldiers recently returned from the front speak of large waves of Azerbaijani troops used to storm Armenian positions.

Azerbaijani resolve has been stiffened by mercenaries from Afghanistan who, the Karabakh-Armenians say, are strung out behind the front on the Azeri side with orders to shoot deserters.

The Armenians also claim multinational oil companies in Baku have provided training and equipment for Azerbaijani forces in the hope of securing a multi-billion dollar oil concession.

The foreign minister of the enclave's government, Arkady Goukassian, said recent negotiations in Prague under the auspices of the Minsk group of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) were "constructive".

NEWS IN BRIEF

16 shot, 1 dead, in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — One man was killed and sixteen men were shot in the legs in what appeared to be a wave of IRA punishment attacks overnight, police said Tuesday. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility for the death of a man whose body was found in mainly Catholic West Belfast. He had been shot in the head and the IRA accused him of drug trafficking in a call to a local newspaper. Sixteen men aged between 20 and 30 were in hospital with gunshot wounds to their legs typical of IRA "kneecapping" punishments, police said. They said the shootings had all the hallmarks of the IRA's punishment of wayward youths, suspected criminals or informers. The reasons for the attacks were not clear. They follow an unprecedented police crackdown on IRA fund-raising in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland last week. Police said they seized documents, stolen property, cash and computers in the raid as well as quantities of drugs linked to fund-raising in the IRA's 25-year campaign to drive Britain from the province.

Khmer Rouge shell Cambodian town

SISOPHON, Cambodia (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas shelled the central market in the border town of Poipet in Cambodia's northwestern Banteay Meanchey province, refugees from the town said Tuesday. The guerrillas shelled the town, which lies on the Thai-Cambodian border, early Tuesday and several rounds landed in the market area forcing some 100 civilians to flee to Sisophon, 48 kilometres (30 miles) east. There were no reports of casualties. Meanwhile a minister said Tuesday Cambodian leaders want United Nations military liaison officers to monitor infringements of the country's borders. The request was made by Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen during a recent meeting with U.N. representative Benny Widyono. Deputy Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said. The meeting followed accusations that Thailand assisted Khmer Rouge guerrillas recapture their headquarters at Pailin in northwest Cambodia. But the co-premiers did not explicitly ask for the border with Thailand to be monitored, a U.N. official added.

S. Korea extends parliament session

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's parliament has extended a special session to try to resolve the dispute over its approval of a new premier, parliamentary officials said Tuesday. "The parliament called a general meeting at 11.30 p.m. (1430 GMT) last night and agreed to continue the current special parliamentary session until Thursday," a parliamentary official said. The session of the unicameral parliament was originally due to end Monday. Presidential aides had indicated that President Kim Young-Sam was preparing another cabinet shake-up. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) have been haggling over parliamentary approval of Lee Yung-Dug, who was in charge of formulating policies about North Korea, as the new premier. Mr. Kim named Lee Yung-Dug Friday to replace Lee Hoi-Chang, who had stepped down as premier earlier in the day after a shock eruption of differences over the scope of the prime minister's power.

Clinton urges ban on assault weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton made a strong plea to the public and Congress to ban 19 types of semi-automatic weapons as part of a crime bill. "The weapons of choice for drug traffickers, gang members and paramilitary extremist groups are these assault weapons," Mr. Clinton said at a White House ceremony honouring crime victims. "I want to ask the law-abiding citizens of this country to tell Congress that it's okay to vote for this and take these kinds of weapons off our streets. I think the American people have a right to be safe and secure. How can we pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness if we don't have the most elemental security?" Last November, the Senate passed a ban on semi-automatic weapons as part of its crime bill. A similar bill, passed by the House of Representatives last week, did not include the ban, so the issue will have to be resolved by a House-Senate Conference Committee or in separate legisla-

tion. Mr. Clinton said if the House could pass the ban quickly, it could be included in the final version of the crime bill. But he told reporters he was not certain the House would agree.

Malaysia swears in a new king

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman was sworn in Tuesday as Malaysia's king for the next five years in pomp and ceremony under the country's unique rotating monarchy. The keeper of the rulers' seal administered the oath of office to King Jaafar in the throne room of the state palace before his fellow sultans and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's cabinet. Mr. Mahathir then presented him with a proclamation declaring him king. King Jaafar, dressed in a yellow suit cut in the style of his home state of Negri Sembilan and wearing a bejewelled golden head-dress, signed and sealed the document at a conference table in front of a huge golden throne. Malaysia's nine hereditary sultans take turns every five years at being the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, or supreme sovereign, under a rotating constitutional monarchy established on independence from Britain in 1957. King Jaafar, 71, a former diplomat is the 10th sovereign of Malaysia. His father, Abdul Rahman Mohammad, was the first, but died a short time after ascending the throne.

China postpones trial of dissidents

BEIJING (R) — China has suddenly postponed the trial, originally set for this week, of 14 dissidents who have been held on grave charges of counterrevolution for nearly two years, family members said Tuesday. They said they had originally been informed the trial would be held from Monday through Wednesday, but their lawyers had later been told the date had been changed to an unspecified time. A spokeswoman for the Beijing Intermediate Court said the case of the 14, the largest batch of political dissidents to face trial in China since the prosecutions related to the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations, was still in the pre-trial stage. She said by telephone it was difficult to say when the formal court session would be held. The postponement of the trial comes at a sensitive time for China, which is in the midst of a dispute with the United States over the link between human rights and trade.

Moldova signals breakthrough on Dnestr issue

KISHINYOV (R) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has announced a breakthrough in the intractable separatist conflict over the Dnestr region and said peace talks would begin soon. Snegur said groups of experts from the Moldovan and Dnestr sides would negotiate under Russian and CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) mediation. "We are speaking about a compromise now. The time when we wanted to solve this problem from a position of obstinacy has passed," Mr. Snegur said on television late Monday. Officials in the self-styled Dnestr Republic, a Slav-populated industrial region of the mainly Romanian-speaking country, confirmed the breakthrough. "It is very likely that very soon we will have a real negotiating process under way on the political status of our region," Yelena Yesimova, spokeswoman for Igor Smirnov, president of the Dnestr Republic, told Reuters.

Nicaraguan army chief to bow out

MANAGUA (AFP) — General Humberto Ortega has announced that he would step down as Nicaragua's army chief, potentially defusing the government's crippling internal power struggle. Gen. Ortega, the brother of former leftist Sandinista president and opposition leader Daniel Ortega, did not give a date for his departure but said President Violeta Chamorro had accepted his resignation. He added that the terms of his resignation were included in military reform legislation to be put before the National Assembly in a matter of days. Gen. Ortega has made Mrs. Chamorro the target of bitter criticism from her political opponents. Mrs. Chamorro had argued that keeping Gen. Ortega at the helm of the military was a key part of political fence-mending after the country's civil war, but then announced last year — without consulting Gen. Ortega — that he would be out of the post in 1994. "While the road is a difficult one, I will not abandon my struggle for democracy," Gen. Ortega said, adding that that commitment was "stronger every day."

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1993 soccer championship to be remembered for setting records

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The recently-concluded 1993 soccer season will be one that will be remembered for setting quite a few records in Jordanian sports' archives and record books.

While many teams will look upon it as a season that reflected their ambitions and efforts, the 1993 competition seemed merciless in ruling that four teams would be relegated to the second division. The victims were Al Baqaa, Fuhais, Sahab and Al Yarmouk.

At the other end of the standings, Al Faisali won their 25th division title with 57 points in the overall standings, a record 16 points away from runners up Al Wihdat.

The titleholders ended the season with a remarkable 51 goals, cancelling the previous record of 47 goals by Al Ramtha in 1981.

Al Faisali also maintained the most consistent form among the 12 competing teams, winning 17 of their 22 matches, drawing in only two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hussein.

The Kingdom's champions also won the cup winners' cup and the Jordan Cup titles, leaving only the Federation Shield title to Al Ramtha.

Al Faisali's star Jirjes Tadros added another record to his team's achievements when he won the best striker award with 19 goals.

However, the sad violence incidents on the final day of the 22-week-old competition which ended Friday will also be recorded as the worst in Jordanian sports.

Following Friday's scuffle between players from Al Wihdat and Al Faisali, and the unruly actions of the attending fans who ravaged the newly-renovated Amman International Stadium, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) took a number of decisions to redress the unsportsmanlike actions.

Hence Al Faisali's Rabeel Al Awadat, and Al Wihdat's Imad Al Zaghari were banned for life, while Al Wihdat's Jihad Abdul Munem, Samer Bahoh and Ali Mahmoud got a three-month suspension. A JD 1000 fine was imposed on Al Wihdat who will share with Al Faisali the cost of all damages to the stadium estimated



Top scorer Jirjes Tadros at JD 6,000-8,000.

The JSF also considered as final Al Faisali's 2-0 win over Al Wihdat, and decided to cancel the scheduled April 29 exhibition match between the top two teams when Al Faisali were to be officially crowned the Kingdom's champions.

Al Wihdat ended the season in second place with 41 points after winning only nine matches with a comparatively low 25-22 scoring record. Al Wihdat last won the first division title in 1991, and the cup winner's cup in 1992.

Al Wihdat faced the problem of a mutiny of veteran players in the first leg of the competition. However their younger lineup of players seemed to do better and managed to sustain their team's competitive form.

Al Hussein maintained their top-three standing throughout most of the season despite losing to Al Baqaa, Sahab and Al Arabi in the final weeks.

Fourth-placed Al Qadissieh will be remembered most for being the best team throughout most of the second leg before losing 5-1 to Al Baqaa, and 3-2 to Al Jazireh.

Their key player Mustafa Adam finished second as top striker with 16 goals.

Al Ahli were favoured to win second place before they became one of the teams that lost most points in the second leg to finish fifth.

Al Arabi finished in a half-way position after drawing with Al Wihdat and Al Qadissieh, and defeating Al Ramtha, Al Hussein and Al Ahli in the second leg.

Al Ramtha upset their fans

and only remained in the first division after their 2-1 win over Al Ahli in their final match.

The team lost its former form after their disappointing results at the Arab Club's Championship in Jeddah in November. Many players then deserted the team after rows with the coach and management. The club is therefore content with keeping its place in the division.

Al Jazireh made a strong comeback after defeating Al Yarmouk, Al Baqaa, Al Qadissieh and Al Ahli and drawing with Al Faisali and Al Hussein before surprisingly losing 4-3 to Sahab to finish eighth.

Among the relegated teams, Al Baqaa seems to be the one that could have just made it if Al Arabi, Al Ramtha or Al Qadissieh had different results in the final week.

Al Baqaa won the admiration of soccer fans with their unrelenting spirit and their victories of 5-1 over Al Qadissieh, 2-0 over Al Hussein, 4-2 over Al Ramtha and draws with Al Ahli and Al Wihdat.

With the relegation of Al Baqaa, Sahab, Fuhais and Al Yarmouk, four new teams will join the 1994 competition. They are Al Karmel, Al Jeel, Shabab Al Hussein, and Kufsum.

The top scorers of each team came as follows:

Al Faisali: Jirjes Tadros (19), Firas Al Khalil (7), Jaafar Hamad (6).

Al Wihdat: Marwan Al Shamali (9), Hisham Abdul Munem (4).

Al Hussein: Aref Hussein (9), Mohammad Sbeiteh (6), Munih Gharabeh (5).

Al Qadissieh: Mustafa Adam (16), Ra'd Al Momani (8), Ismail Awadat (3).

Al Ahli: Nart Yadaf (8), Amer Wali (6), Khalil Fatafah (5).

Al Arabi: Mohammad Al Alawneh (10), Ahmad Subh (6), Ayman Al Omari (5).

Al Ramtha: Khaled Al Aqqouri (10), Badran Al Shaaran (7), Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib (4).

Al Jazireh: Marad Hasan (9), Tawfiq Saleh and Simon George (5), Riyad Azmi and Maher Magharbeh (3).

Al Baqaa: Riyad Digs (7), Khaled Faleh (5), Ismail Jaramneh (3).

Sahab: Mohammad Al Ashhab (10), Mohammad Odeh and Ghaleb Rami (4), Mohammad Abdul Rahman (3).

Fuhais: Khader Mubarak and Wa'ed Suweis (7).

Al Yarmouk: Khaled Yousef (8), Mohammad Abu Taleb (5), Abdul Fattah Abbad (3).

NBA survives without Michael Jordan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. basketball fans discovered there is life after Michael Jordan. It's just much less predictable.

Jordan's parting gift to the National Basketball Association (NBA) has been the most exciting title race in 15 years. A record 10 clubs with 30 or more victories are legitimate title threats in the playoff chase beginning Thursday.

Jordan's Chicago Bulls were overwhelming favourites after winning their third straight NBA crown last year, but his retirement last October robbed the league of a clear front-runner.

Seattle had the league's best record at 63-19. New York and Houston both had 15-game win streaks while Atlanta won 14 in a row. Chicago, expected to struggle without Jordan, won 55 games, only two fewer than last year.

"People anticipated we were just going to pass away without Michael," Chicago's Scottie Pippen said. "Everybody anticipated Chicago would fall aside and the Knicks would just take off. The Knicks had a great season. It's just other teams have had a great season around them."

Without Jordan's aerial moves, tall men in the middle became the NBA's centre of attention. San Antonio's David Robinson won the league scoring title, hitting an astounding 71 points in his final game to edge out Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal. Robinson became the first centre since Bob McAdoo in 1976 to lead NBA scorers, taking the throne Jordan owned for the previous seven years.

Orlando's O'Neal took Jordan's role as the league's top attraction and endorsement king. The Magic sold out 35 of 41 road games and O'Neal was popular in several television commercials. O'Neal, second in points and rebounds, sparked the youthful Magic to their first playoff berth.

Seattle were among several clubs searching in vain for the respect given Jordan's title teams.

"We ain't never going to get no respect if we don't worry about that," Seattle guard Gary Payton said. "It's fine. We don't need the hype. When we win the championship, they're going to say, 'where did that team come from?'"

NBA scoring dropped to its lowest level in 40 years as defence became vital for top teams. Only NBA scoring leaders Phoenix won with an



Michael Jordan

offensive emphasis. The Sonics stressed team play on offense and defence, producing six double-figure scorers and a pressuring defence. A trade with Indiana for Germany's Detlef Schrempf as the season began was crucial.

"Detlef was the final piece of the puzzle," Seattle coach George Karl said. "He brought just what we needed to complement Shawn's play underneath. We feel good about our chances."

New faces bolstered other hopefuls. San Antonio brought in Dennis Rodman from Detroit and he led NBA rebounders for a third straight year, pulling down 17 a game. Atlanta sent veteran Dominique Wilkins to the Los Angeles Clippers for Danny Manning and won the Eastern Conference for the first time ever.

"Bringing Danny here has fired up a lot," Atlanta centre Kevin Willis said. "Nique was very important, but Danny has meant a lot to the team. The chemistry is very good."

Overseas players made their mark on the NBA, paced by Schrempf, Croatsians Toni Kukoc of Chicago and Dino Radja of Boston, Australia's Luc Longley for Chicago, Dutchman Rik Smits of Indiana, Nigerian-born Haakeem Olajuwon of Houston and Denver's Dikembe Mutombo, the NBA blocked shots leader from Zaire.

Detroit, Boston and the Los Angeles Lakers, dominant in the 1980s, all finished out of the playoffs, ending post-season appearance streaks of 10, 14 and 17 years respectively.

Magie Johnson returned to coach the Lakers for their final 16 games, but was unhappy about selfish attitudes and vowed never to coach again. Other coaches fared better. Golden State's Don Nelson won his 800th game, New York's Pat Riley coached his 700th victory and journeyman Larry Brown revived Indiana. They and Karl led coach of the year hopefuls.

ART tourney postponed

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) President Awad Haddad Tuesday announced that the Arab Radio and Television (ART) Basketball Tournament would be postponed until further notice.

The announcement comes only a week before the tournament was scheduled to begin at the Sports Palace with 13 top Arab teams taking part.

At a press conference at JBF headquarters, Mr. Haddad noted that the tournament would not be cancelled and would probably take place in August.

The announcement comes as quite a surprise as the event was widely publicised and fans were anticipating an action-packed tournament that would have brought together a host of the best teams in the Arab World.

The JBF president explained that the main reason for the surprise postponement was the unexpected enormous cost of live satellite television coverage.

"ART have opted to postpone their championship until the commencement of transmission of their satellite channel from Amman in July. That would greatly reduce the added cost of transmission," he said.

The championship which was to be televised all over the satellite channels was expected to cost ART over JD

120,000 as they had undertaken the complete sponsorship of the event, including travel, accommodation, and all expenses related to the tournament. However satellite transmission was not discussed until recently, and it turned out it would add another JD 140,000 to the expenses.

The JBF president, who heads the tournament's executive committee, said preparations were well on course for holding the first-of-its-kind event, and all officials had put up a concerted effort to hold a successful tournament that would "very much enhance relations between various Arab federations and clubs and also serve Jordanian basketball and give a big boost to organisers, referees, players and fans."

The teams which had confirmed their participation were: Al Ahli and Al Zamalek as well as Arab clubs' champions Al Jazireh from Egypt, two teams from Bahrain including Al Manamah who are champions of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Lebanese league champions Al Riyadi and cup winners Al Hikmah, one team from each of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Tunisia in addition to the Kingdom's top teams — Al Ahli and Al Orthodossi.

During the tournament, Jordanian basketball superstar Murad Barakat was to officially retire from competitive basketball. A special booklet was also

being prepared for the occasion citing Barakat's long basketball career during which he represented Jordan in over 300 matches for the national as well as military teams and led Al Orthodossi during their undisputed domination of the basketball scene throughout the eighties before losing it to all-time rivals Al Ahli in 1990, 1992 and 1993.

Mr. Haddad explained that the JBF understood ART's decision although the postponement put the JBF in a very difficult position especially since many teams had confirmed their participation. "We even heard that competitions in Tunisia and Lebanon were recently rescheduled to allow their teams to take part in the ART tournament," he added.

Mr. Haddad emphasised that the postponement was unfavourable, but expressed hope that future cooperation with ART would be fruitful. "We are sure that ART will cooperate in sponsoring Jordanian sports, especially the national basketball teams," he said.

Mr. Haddad said that the JBF's budget had a deficit of over JD 100,000 that would hopefully be covered by understanding sponsors.

He cited JBF's previous All-Star tournament which was sponsored by car dealers who later shied away after Jordan Television refused to air the matches when teams were to carry the names of their sponsoring companies.

Graf bemoans life without Seles

HAMBURG, Germany (AFP) — Steffi Graf bemoaned the lack of competition in women's tennis here Tuesday as she lost just 12 points in a 6-0, 6-0 destruction of Silke Frankl in the first round of the Citizen Cup.

Graf said she was not concerned about playing on the anniversary of the Monica Seles stabbing here last year, before taking a sideswipe at her would-be challengers.

She said: "Despite the circumstances last year, once I went on the court I didn't really look back. I haven't really noticed any talk about it, except with the press."

"I'm trying to do my best and work as hard as I can, and if I don't have the competition there's nothing I can do about it. I can just hope it will change in the future. Even though the beginning of this year looks very one-sided that can change

very quickly."

"But I'm surprised there's not more competition. I expected quite a few other players to show more improvement from a couple of years ago."

The German was watched by a handful of international journalists but she made sure the match against her compatriot was entirely free of any drama, either on court or off it.

Graf's win took a mere 35 minutes, clinching the final three games without a point. Still without former world number one Seles to test her, she has only dropped one set this year, to Natalia Zvereva in the Lipton final last month, and has been defeated only once since losing last year's final here to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

The Spaniard, seeded second against Bulgarian qualifier Elena Wagner, survived a 2hr 40min. challenge before



Steffi Graf scraping through 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

Sanchez-Vicario had to have treatment to a knee injury during the first set and blamed the injury for her poor show.

"She didn't have anything to lose and played a very good match. But on my side, my knee bothered me a lot and I was worried before the match whether I could play."

Morocco look set for early exit this time around

By Mimoun Dark
Reuters

RABAT — If FIFA delegates had voted differently in 1988 the world's elite players could now be preparing for the World Cup finals in Morocco rather than in the United States.

The north African kingdom were the only serious contenders to the U.S. when the vote was taken six years ago to decide the host nation for the 1994 finals.

The United States collected 10 votes, Morocco seven and Brazil just two. Although the United States could not be matched in terms of communications, facilities and marketing opportunities, they were a poor second to the Moroccans in their passion for the game.

Unfortunately for Morocco, that was not enough to enable them to clinch the vote needed to stage the event. Morocco realistically lacks the infrastructure to stage an event as huge as the World Cup and few Moroccans ever thought they really would host the tournament.

What they are far more upset about is losing to West Germany in the dying seconds of their second round clash in Monterrey in Mexico in 1986 when they were beaten 1-0 by an 89th minute Lothar Matthaus free-kick.

Whether Morocco will have a chance to get over this disappointment this summer is debatable.

They were drawn in a tough first round group along with Belgium, the Netherlands and

Saudi Arabia and could well struggle to make the second round this time.

When the draw was announced a local daily headlined its story from Las Vegas: "Groan."

Morocco are hoping to advance by being one of the four best third-placed finishers, scratching out a draw with European sides and then beating the Saudis by as big a margin as possible.

Coincidentally Morocco and Saudi Arabia have already met each other in international competition in the United States. In 1984 Morocco beat the Saudi 1-0 in the first round of the Los Angeles Olympics soccer competition at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, the venue for this summer's final.

This will be Morocco's third appearance in the World Cup following their debut in Mexico in 1970 and their creditable showing back in Mexico 16 years later when they drew with Poland and England before beating Portugal 3-1 to top their first round group.

But their squad this year looks like being the weakest to represent the country so far. Coach Abdella "Blinda" Ajri has been rebuilding the side since he took over from Abdelhak Louzani following the completion of the qualifying competition, and unlike Louzani, is keen to use as many players now based in

Europe as he can.

But there are no players as good as 1986 heroes like strikers Aziz Boudherhal, Merry Krimou and Mustapha Hadadoui, or keeper Baddou Zaki, who all went professional in France, Spain or Portugal.

The general feeling in African circles is that if Zambia had not lost their first-choice squad in an air crash April 28, 1993, they would have qualified for the finals in place of Morocco, but in the event, Morocco clinched the place with a 1-0 home win over Zambia in their final qualifier last October.

And the Moroccan results in their training matches so far tends to bear out that Morocco is a weak side.

They were beaten 1-0 in France in December by both first division Nantes and second division Nancy, and were held to 1-1 draws by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in the UAE tournament in January.

On March 23 they had what local sports writers called an "astonishing" 2-1 away win in Luxembourg and have generally failed to impress. They lost again Wednesday when Argentina beat them 3-1 in Argentina, although the Moroccans did trouble the South Americans with some dangerous fast counter-attacks play.

The squad will spend the month of May in France play-

ing against minor league clubs to create "harmony among the players" according to the coach.

His main problem is coordinating teamwork between professionals with teams in Europe who it is hoped will stiffen the backbone of the other members of the selection with less international experience.

Blinda will have to knit his home-based players in with a dozen players from European clubs like Mustapha Hujji (Nancy), Mohamed Chaouch (Nice), Ismael Triki (Chateauroux), Mustapha Haddou (Angers), Aziz Ouali (Bastia), Abdallah Nacer (Bruges), Rachid Azouzi (Duisburg), and Hassan Nadir (Forens).

Players from at home and abroad have barely played together and Blinda seems in a quandary over who to select and is tight-lipped about his final 22.

But there are a few certainities. Among them are the spec-

tacular and athletic keeper Khalil Azmi of the Casablanca Raja Club, left-footed striker Rachid Daoudi of Wydad, a specialist in accurate free kicks and corners, and the cool-headed defender Nourredine Naybet, who plays with Nantes.

Also sure to be in New York and Orlando is the talented Nancy striker Mustapha Hujji, who left Morocco as a young child, but decided to play for his homeland rather than France.

The Moroccans are hoping that the hot and humid climate will favour them, particularly in Florida which is on the same latitude as Morocco. If that does not help they always have "baraka", the local word for good luck.

Local sports commentators say they will need a lot of haraka when they meet Belgium June 7, Saudi Arabia June 23 and the Dutch June 29, because as one wrote "We don't have anyone really good at scoring goals."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSH
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DON'T TRY FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ A 9 4 3

♥ 7 6

♦ 10 9 8

♣ 10 7 6 2

SOUTH

♠ Q J 10 7 6

♥ 10 8 4

♦ A K 2

♣ Q 4

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass Pass

Pass 3+ Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

The Seabees proclaim that they can do the impossible immediately.

Perhaps. But the prudent bridge player will steer clear of the impossible in favor of some line that is more likely to bring home the bacon.

With a dead minimum opening bid including an insufficiently guarded honor, nothing short of a jump shift was going to lead South to a second time. North's hand was not good enough for anything that

drastic.

West led the king, ace and queen of hearts, then shifted to the jack of diamonds. Since there was a sure club loser on the hand, declarer won the diamond in hand and ran the queen of trumps—down one. "It was a 50 percent shot, partner," remarked South.

Declarer's mathematics were faulty. West, a passed hand, had already shown up with 10 high-card points. Adding either black-suit king to West's holding would have made it a full opening bid, so East was marked with both.

Other than dropping a singleton king of trumps offside, only one possible distribution would permit declarer to lead the contract. East had to hold a doubleton king of spades, so that the partscore could be made with a throw-in play.

Declarer should win the diamond shift in dummy, cash the ace of spades and ace-king of diamonds, then exit with a trump. In with the king of spades, East has a choice of losing options—a club would allow declarer's queen to win and a red suit would permit declarer to discard a club from hand while ruffing on the table. Either way, declarer would not lose a club.

Olympic champion admits to doping

BONN (R) — Former Olympic javelin champion Rnth Fuchs of East Germany admitted Tuesday she took steroids on her way to two gold medals in the 1970s but said she had no bad conscience about it.

In an interview with Reuters, Fuchs, the 1972 and 1976 Olympic champion who also won the European championship titles in 1974 and 1978, said she had taken the anabolic steroid oral-turinabol during tough winter power training from 1972 to 1980.

"It was a drug to regenerate my body because of the hard training I had in winter," Fuchs said. "But it was not a drug that manipulated my performances. I knew I was doing something that was not allowed...but I was convinced that other athletes were doing it."

CAR FOR SALE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announces the sale of a 1986 Peugeot 505SR car. Duty unpaid.

Delivery at Amman Customs Office, through sealed envelope offers addressed to the managing director.

For those willing to examine the car, it is now parked at the Customs Office in Shmelsani, near Al Shmelsani Hospital, during office hours (from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m.) for one week.

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135 square metres, nicely furnished three bedroom apartment, third floor with a nice view, 2 bathrooms, separate central heating, telephone and garage.

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Please contact tel.: 685732/ 680763 between 8:00-14:00 p.m.

INTERIOR DESIGNER WANTED

- Full-time.
- 2-3 years work experience.
- Preferably ability to work on autocad

Israel, PLO report deal delayed further

CAIRO (Agencies) — The chief delegates to Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiations conceded Tuesday that negotiations will drag into next week, further delaying the start of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The judgments by Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak and the PLO's Nabil Shaath reversed earlier optimism about a signing early next week of an agreement on starting limited Palestinian self-rule in the two areas.

"There is a long list of issues that still need answers. I don't think it will end this week," Gen. Shahak told reporters. "If we don't finish, we will come back next week."

Still, both Dr. Shaath and Gen. Shahak insisted an agreement was nearly at hand.

Gen. Shahak said negotiations were concluding talks on two major obstacles, security and legal jurisdiction in the self-rule zones. Dr. Shaath said he could not discuss a third dispute on freeing Palestinian prisoners because "we are making progress."

The issues still tying up agreement are: — Crossing points for Jewish settlers going from Gaza to Israel and the passage of Palestinians through Israeli territory on the 100 kilometres between Gaza and Jericho.

— Whether Israel or Palestinians will have legal jurisdiction over Israelis and foreigners who are accused of crimes in the self-rule zones.

— Release of Palestinian prisoners beyond 5,000 already agreed on. The PLO wants freedom for all; Israel is refusing to release members of Hamas, which opposes the peace talks, or those who committed violent crimes.

Dr. Shaath said both sides were doing their best "to finish as soon as possible."

Israel and the PLO would continue discussion of the outstanding points immediately after an accord had been signed, Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath said: "We may delay these (points) beyond the signature day, but that will not leave anything important."

He said last week negotiators had agreed a final accord would be ready for signing between May 2 and 4.

Under the declaration of principles signed in September Israel was due to complete a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho by April 13.

Gen. Shahak said Israel and the PLO were "not deeply divided over fundamental questions, but there are a huge number of points which need to be resolved, and some risk posing problems."

Earlier he stressed that security and the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction had to be settled before an accord was signed. An agreement on jurisdiction was close, he added.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also said security matters could not be left until later.

"We do not have to settle all the outstanding differences... on the other hand it is impossible to put off until later questions relating to security," he told Israeli Radio from Moscow.

Among questions which could be delayed where the definition of an "international presence" in Gaza and Jericho as called for under the declaration of principles.

"It would be a shame to lose time over that," Mr. Rabin said, adding that certain economic problems would also be left out for the time being.

Dr. Shaath said he hoped U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming visit to Cairo would "help to reduce the list of points" on which Israel and the PLO were still divided.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is due to hold talks with Mr. Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Thursday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said a joint meeting between Mr. Christopher, Mr. Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was "possible, but nothing has been decided yet."

Mr. Peres said Monday the two sides must finalise an accord by the end of this week.

"The negotiations must not go on forever. We must wrap them up at the end of this week and achieve a settlement," he said.

However, Dr. Shaath echoed Gen. Shahak's caution Tuesday regarding the progress of the negotiations, noting

that a draft accord would still have to be submitted to the Israeli and PLO leaders before being given the finishing touches.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin are expected to finalise agreement on certain key points, including the size of the autonomous Jericho area.

Mr. Arafat handed Russian Ambassador to Tunis Boris Shubin a message addressed to President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday on the progress of the autonomy negotiations and the Middle East peace process.

Last week Mr. Arafat met Mr. Yeltsin in Moscow and reportedly urged him to put pressure on Mr. Rabin to speed up implementation of the declaration of principles.

A senior PLO official said meanwhile elections for a Palestinian authority in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho, which are scheduled for July 13, are unlikely to be held before mid-October.

Saeb Erakat, head of the Palestinian election committee, said delays in implementing the Sept. 13 autonomy accord had set back election plans.

"We will do our homework regardless," Dr. Erakat told AFP in his office at the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

"We know we can't hold elections without having the negotiations finalised."

"But, we will prepare ourselves and show the world we are ready, regardless, ready for elections no later than Oct. 15."

He said preparations had begun for elections to a legislative council of 100 members.

About 80 members of an executive Palestinian National Authority would also be elected, with the rest appointed by Mr. Arafat.

The European Union, along with Japan, Canada, the United States, Russia and the Scandinavian countries will monitor the campaign and voting.

Europe is also training some 6,000 Palestinian administrators for the elections. An initial group of 30 Palestinians are to go to Germany for training early next month.

"We are finalising now to present the leadership with our

(Continued on page 3)



An elderly man enters a polling station as others await their turn on Tuesday to cast their vote in Takoza, a black township outside Johannesburg (AFP photo)

South African blacks vote — 'free at last'

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Defying bombs and bureaucratic bungling, black South Africans voted for the first time on Tuesday in a resounding declaration that they were free at last.

The old, the maimed, the sick, the jailed and the exiled strode and shuffled — some were carried — to polling stations across the country and abroad for the first "special day" of the three-day, all-race elections.

From Soweto to New Zealand, Uitenhage to the United States, newly-enfranchised blacks joined whites in raising a democracy out of the ashes of apartheid, the unique form of racial segregation that climaxed three centuries of white domination.

The feelings of thousands of blacks queuing from dawn in dusty townships in the early-morning chill and then in the hot sun was summed up by one beaming pensioner in battle-scarred Kaitleng east of Johannesburg.

"I think my dignity has been restored," said Magdalene Kutane, 65.

Tuesday was a special voting day for the old, the sick, prisoners convicted of all but major crimes and South Africans abroad, many of them refugees from apartheid. A total of 22.7 million people are eligible to vote, 18 million of them blacks.

Polling began hesitantly in many areas as officials unfamiliar with mass voting struggled with their papers and other paraphernalia. Thousands waited patiently for hours after scheduled opening time before ballot boxes were ready for slips listing 27 parties for provincial and national legisla-

tures. Other voters got to the polls on Wednesday and Thursday after the birth, at midnight (2200 GMT) on Tuesday, of the new nation.

The old South African flag, symbol of oppression to millions was to be lowered in major cities then and a new constitution to take effect.

Voters turned out with remarkable enthusiasm on Tuesday to put their crosses over the grave of apartheid.

A spate of bombings, blamed on white extremists making a last stand against black rule, killed 21 people and wounded 162 since Sunday — two in an attack on a black war in the capital Pretoria barely 10 hours before the polls opened.

Reformist President F.W. de Klerk, who took his 89-year-old mother Corrie to vote in Pretoria, told reporters he was hazy.

"It was my policy that there should come an end to minority rule," said the man who freed Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 and began dismantling apartheid — the basic policy plank of his national party since 1948.

Mr. Mandela, who spent 27 of his 75 years in prison for fighting apartheid and stands on the verge of power, joined Mr. De Klerk in condemning what the president called "the lunatic fringe to the right."

"We will not let a handful of killers steal our democracy," Mandela told reporters.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace prize winner like Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk, said he was "walking on clouds... like falling in love."

The bombings, he said, were like "the last kicks of a dying horse."

Serbs continue pullout amid U.N. optimism

ZAGREB (Agencies) — The United Nations said Tuesday that the Bosnian Serbs were making progress in withdrawing their heavy weapons from around the Muslim enclave of Gorazde as a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) deadline approached.

"Generally we are satisfied with the progress that is taking place on the ground," United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Michael Williams said ahead of the 0001 GMT Wednesday deadline.

Under the NATO ultimatum issued on Friday, Serb forces must pull all their heavy weaponry outside a 20-kilometre zone around the eastern Bosnian town by the

deadline or face air strikes. In Washington, White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said the Serbs were clearly on track for complying with the ultimatum.

"They're clearly in the process of complying, but exactly where they are I don't know," she said, adding, "The ultimatum still stands."

In Brussels, NATO and U.N. commanders for Bosnia-Herzegovina gave a cautiously optimistic assessment of the Serb withdrawal.

NATO issued the new threat after the Bosnian Serbs defied repeated calls to stop attacking Gorazde, including appeals from their Russian allies.

U.S. warplanes operating under NATO command

bombed Serb positions near Gorazde earlier this month, but the raids did little other than infuriate the Serbs and prompt them to detain U.N. personnel and break off contact with the United Nations.

As the Serb offensive on Gorazde continued, NATO agreed to extend to Gorazde and four other U.N.-declared safe havens the air-strike threat that brought relative peace to Sarajevo in February under a similar weapons withdrawal ultimatum to the Serbs.

General Bernard de Lapresle and Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, commander of U.N. forces in ex-Yugoslavia

(Continued on page 3)

253 killed in Taiwanese plane crash in Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — At least 253 people died when a China Airlines Airbus A-300 with 271 people on board crashed and exploded into flames while landing Tuesday evening at Nagoya airport in central Japan, officials said.

Transport Ministry officials corrected the number of people on board from 272 to 271, saying that they had counted a crew member twice.

The officials said eight people were still listed as missing some seven hours after the crash while 10 people had been treated at hospitals after they were rescued from the debris.

The plane, on a flight from Taipei to Nagoya, had 158 Japanese passengers and 99 foreign passengers, including two infants, as well as 14 crew members.

A Transport Ministry official said that minutes before the crash, pilot Wang Lo-Chi radioed that he would abandon his landing attempt and try again. The pilot did not give a reason. In his last transmission, he said only "going around."

The plane, flying in from Taipei, Taiwan, crashed several hundred metres to the right of the runway. Had it gone another 200 metres straight ahead, it would have hit a housing area.

It ended up just short of several hangars of an air self-defence forces base at the airport, and a quick response by airmen at the base was credited with saving some lives.

A Transport Ministry official said the fire was put out about 40 minutes after the crash. Hours later, some 3,000 police, firemen and troops were gingerly lifting wreckage with cranes and by hand in the search for the final victims.

The crash was the second worst in Japanese aviation history. The worst single-plane accident in any country occurred Aug. 12, 1985, when a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 crashed into a mountain on a domestic flight, killing 520 people.

The plane, Flight 140, was carrying 256 passengers including two infants, and 15 crew members when it crashed at Nagoya.

(Continued on page 3)

Israel cautious on Russian role

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Israel's visiting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared politely unconvinced about Russia's hopes of a bigger role in the Middle East peace process after meetings on Tuesday with the president and foreign and defence ministers.

But Mr. Rabin, who was due later on Tuesday to leave Moscow after an evening news conference, said Israel was keen to broaden bilateral ties.

"In all my negotiations, I understood that Russia has an interest in the future in continuing the work of establishing peace and security in the Middle East," Mr. Rabin said after his final meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

"Perhaps this is a bit different from what happened with the Soviet Union in the past."

During the cold war, the Soviet Union championed the Arab cause against Israel. But the collapse of communism, and the growth of a large Russian-speaking community in Israel, have shaken up this traditional alignment.

Israel and Moscow reestablished diplomatic relations in October 1991 which had been broken off in 1967.

Moscow, a co-sponsor with Washington of the peace process, has until this year taken a back seat. But, as part of a general shaking-off of post-Soviet inertia in foreign policy, it is now keen to be seen doing more in the Middle East.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rabin rejected a Russian plan for a second international conference on the Middle East and asserted talks with Palestinians must continue on a one-on-one basis.

"I do not believe there is any need for a Madrid two," Mr. Rabin said at a news conference.

"There is an understanding between us and on the part of the United States to leave the negotiations to be done between us and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Cairo, talking directly," Mr. Rabin stated.

Mr. Rabin said he and Russian officials, including President Yeltsin, had discussed no details on proposals for overcoming remaining obstacles to an accord on limited Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But he said they had discussed the current status of negotiations as well as the possibility of fresh talks with Syria.

Asked about Russian arms sales to Syria, Mr. Rabin stated that "we do not oppose any relations between Russia and the other Arab countries."

"The question is to what extent the relations are for bilateral purposes and are encouraging the agreed goal of peace and stability in the region," he said.

Mr. Kozyrev said relations between the two countries were "on the rise."

Mr. Rabin and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Monday signed agreements on dual taxation, agricultural cooperation and tourism.

(Continued on page 3)

No civil war or partition in Yemen — Basendwa

SANAA (R) — Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Basendwa said on Tuesday his country's political crisis would likely drag on but ruled out civil war and partition.

"The crisis is expected to continue for some time. But I do not expect secession," Mr. Basendwa told Reuters in an interview.

Differences between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh are threatening Yemen's four-year-old unity and paralysing the government.

Mr. Saleh who ruled conservative North Yemen and Mr. Beidh, leader of the Marxist South Yemen, merged the two parts in May 1990, but differences that emerged in August raised fears of redivision.

"Secession will be the fuse that ignites civil war, and I don't expect fighting in Yemen as this will lead to its fragmentation in more than two states," Mr. Basendwa said.

"As long as everybody is aware of this, there is no ground for fear of civil war."

Mr. Basendwa is a member of Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC), whose rival Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) is led by Mr. Beidh.

Mr. Basendwa blamed the crisis on "hawks within the YSP who advocate secession. The majority of the party is pro-unity and the solution must come from the YSP which sparked the crisis."

The YSP ruled united Yemen with the GPC on 30-50 power sharing basis until elections in April 1993, which

(Continued on page 3)

Troops kill one in Hebron; 2 Israeli Arabs held in blast

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Demonstrations broke out in Hebron Tuesday after soldiers killed a Palestinian they said tried to stab a trooper. Locals said the shooting was unprovoked.

Also Tuesday, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli soldier and officials said two Israeli Arabs were among 27 Palestinians arrested overnight for a suicide bombing of a bus two weeks ago.

Police identified the two Arabs as Atef Kahaha, 46, and Majed Kabaha, 48, from the Arah village of Barta that straddles the West Bank and Israel.

Atef is suspected of taking the assailant to the northern town of Hadera on April 13, where he set off the bomb that killed five Israelis. Majed is suspected of conspiracy, said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen.

The alleged involvement of Israeli Arabs raised an outcry, causing Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to chide reporters for making ethnic origins an issue.

"When someone is guilty, just one person is guilty, let's not blame all Arabs," he said.

In Hebron, seven people were injured when soldiers opened fire to disperse demonstrations that erupted after Kamel Hussein Urudat, 35, a shoemaker from Dahariya village south of Hebron, was shot dead.

Witnesses said three soldiers stopped Urudat at a roadblock ordered him out of his car then

shot him from a metre away. "It was an execution, a deliberate shooting without provocation," said Fayzeh Ismail Kafiseb, a school teacher who saw the incident from her balcony.

A military statement said that soldiers spotted a Palestinian coming towards one soldier with a knife and opened fire, seriously wounding the Arab who died of his injuries.

Hebron is still smoldering from the Feb. 25 mosque massacre when a Jewish settler shot dead more than 30 Palestinians as they knelt in prayer.

Israel's army chief predicted on Tuesday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would put pressure on Hamas to curb guerrilla attacks in Palestinian self-rule areas, a participant at a parliamentary briefing said.

"I believe they (the PLO) will have an incentive in fact to prove that in the areas that are under their authority terrorism will go down," Lieutenant-General Elud Barak was quoted as saying.

They will impose pressure on Hamas to limit (guerrilla) activities in Gaza and Jericho because it will give them a basis for their political argument that goes: 'the areas you have given us are being run in relative quiet and now we want to expand these areas'."

Gen. Barak also said that he would not be surprised if Hamas eventually cooperated with a PLO-led Palestinian autonomy, Israeli army radio reported.

Gen. Barak reportedly estimated that it would take the army two weeks to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho once an agreement was reached, in contrast to previous estimates that said withdrawal could take place within 24 hours.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerjian told American fund-raisers Tuesday that in order for peace to be achieved in the Middle East, negotiations had to advance on all fronts in order to prevail over extremist violence.

"It is quite frankly a race against time as to which tendency will ultimately prevail," he said.



Israeli soldiers on Tuesday arrest a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)



A Bosnian Serb convoy pulling heavy artillery through the town of Zupceci, two kilometres southeast of Gorazde, on Tuesday as it withdraws from the U.N. security zone (AFP photo)

Sabri Farah and family
Extends their sincere condolences to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN,
the Hashemite Family,
and all Jordanians for
the passing away yesterday of
Her Majesty the Queen Mother,
Zein Al Sharaf